



TRUSTEESHIP COUNCIL

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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/1359, 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.

GENERAL DEBATE (*concluded*)

1. Mr. FIELD (Special Representative) said that he wished to clarify certain matters raised during the discussion. He did not think that criticism of the Territory's representation at the Nigeria Constitutional Conference held in London in 1957 was justified, for Nigeria's 30 million inhabitants had had thirty representatives, while the Southern Cameroons, with a population of 750,000, had sent five delegates. Again, some members of the Council had stated that not all shades of opinion had been represented at the Conference; but it would have been impossible to admit to

the Conference a delegate from every party and every independent candidate that had stood at the last elections. The test had been whether a party had secured representation in the legislature, and on that basis a fair selection had been made, for the three parties represented in London had won a total of 68,999 votes, while the three parties and seven candidates not represented had mustered only 9,440 votes between them. In the north there was no political party specifically identified with the Territory, and political views in that part of the Territory were represented by four parties in the Northern Region all of which had sent delegates to London; they were united in their views on the future of the Northern Cameroons.

2. None of the decisions taken at the London Conference had been foisted on the delegates, and the negotiations had been conducted in a completely free atmosphere. Thus the Governor-General would continue to preside over the Council of Ministers, and three officials would remain in the Southern Cameroons Executive Council and House of Assembly, not for reasons of prestige as the Burmese representative had alleged at the 861st meeting, but at the indigenous inhabitants' request. The House of Chiefs, about which the representatives of Burma and the Soviet Union had expressed misgivings, had been asked for by the population; it could not, in any event, impede the Territory's progress, for the House would have no delaying power, and if the chiefs were dilatory the Government would not have to wait for their advice before proceeding with important legislation.

3. The USSR representative had also expressed misgivings (862nd meeting) because the proposals for the Southern Cameroons had not been formally endorsed by the Southern Cameroons House of Assembly. But the proposals corresponded to those made before the London Conference by a round-table conference which had been attended not only by the members of the House of Assembly but also by representatives of the chiefs, Native Authorities and prominent men from each division and which had been therefore, a thoroughly representative gathering.

4. With regard to the Consultative Committee for the Northern Cameroons anyone who had experience of the working of that body could be left in no doubt as to its effectiveness as an instrument for marking the identity of the northern part of the Trust Territory. The only reason why its members were pressing for the integration of the Northern Cameroons into the Northern Region was that public opinion as a whole demanded it. Except for the Lamido of Adamawa, within whose jurisdiction a substantial part of the Cameroons lay, all the Committee's members were Cameroonians; no European or indigenous officials took part in its proceedings.

5. The Administering Authority was not restricting the exercise of civil liberties in the Territory. All the measures of which the USSR representative had complained had been adopted on the advice of councils on which the people had many elected representatives. It

had been the Council of Ministers which had advised that certain subversive communist pamphlets should be banned; again, it had been the Council of Ministers, with the support of the Southern Cameroons Executive Council, which had advised that the Union des Populations du Cameroun (UPC) should be banned under section 62 of the Criminal Code because it had been interfering with good government, among other things, by threatening recourse to violence.

6. Turning to economic matters, he recalled that early in 1955 the Southern Cameroons House of Assembly had endorsed a statement by the Southern Cameroons Government of its intention to attract capital into the Territory by granting concessions to foreign enterprises, while paying due regard to the interests of the inhabitants and without insisting too rigidly upon local financial participation. In applying that policy, which the Trusteeship Council itself had commended (A/3595 and Corr.1, p. 108), the Administering Authority had been careful to ensure that all approved enterprises had sufficient capital and technical skill to enrich the Territory. The terms of every grant of land or other facilities had been subject to examination and approval by the Executive Council. Furthermore, many of the indigenous inhabitants were asking for the installation of companies, which often led to the building of schools, roads and hospitals. The Burmese representative had said that no penalty had been imposed upon a concern which had failed to observe the time-limits laid down in its contract; but the Administration had shown equal moderation in dealing with a Cameroonian, who had likewise been behind-hand, and had even assisted him.

7. The Federal Government was giving careful consideration to how the Cameroons Development Corporation's financial difficulties might best be resolved. It would, however, be a mistake to think that the Corporation was not doing useful work even now. The fact was that, though in the last year or two its profits had been small, the contributions it was making, directly and indirectly, to the public revenues amounted to between £400,000 and £500,000 a year: the Corporation brought money into the Territory and disbursed it in payment for services and in staff wages, import and export duties, income tax, etc., and in providing medical and hospital services which would otherwise have to be paid for by the Administration. The Corporation could not fairly be accused, as the USSR representative had accused it, of dissipating its lands, for it could not transfer any land without the consent of the Southern Cameroons Government. The estate which it had surrendered to the Government had not been an economic proposition. Similarly, the Buea farms had been an ancillary activity which the Corporation had been unable to run profitably. In that connexion he was surprised that the Government should be criticized for the arrangement whereby the farms had been turned into an open prison where prisoners were taught modern methods of farming; that arrangement was in fact a highly significant experiment in the treatment of offenders.

8. The Administering Authority wished to abolish corporal punishment, but that was now for Cameroonian public opinion to decide. The Government intended to bring before the next meeting of the Southern Cameroons House of Assembly a bill to abolish corporal punishment except for a very limited number of serious offences. It was to be hoped that the bill would pave the way for abolition in the future.

9. With regard to medical matters, progress had been made in reorganizing the services in the north and in the south, and it was for the Governments of the two regions to decide whether they could go as far as the World Health Organization (WHO) had recommended in its observations (T/1359).

10. With regard to education, the Administering Authority shared the hope expressed by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) that primary education would become free and universal. That could not happen immediately, however, owing to lack of money and teachers. The Southern Cameroons authorities wanted the cost of education to be covered by grants-in-aid and education rates, but had left it to the local communities to decide whether or not fees should continue to be charged. The central authorities were bearing part of the cost of education in the northern part of the Territory, and the information given on the subject in paragraph 7 of UNESCO's observations (T/1353) should be brought up to date as follows: in 1956-1957 the Northern Regional Government had contributed £47,100 towards education in the Northern Cameroons, made up of £7,800 in grants to Native Authorities, £8,000 in grants to voluntary agencies and £31,300 in direct governmental expenditure.

11. He then gave the USSR representative some information on what was being done to give children in the Territory a general idea of the Trusteeship System and the responsibilities of the Administering Authority to the Territory and to the United Nations.

12. In conclusion, he stated that the Southern Cameroons Government was to disburse £18,000 in grants to Native Authorities for community development; that the Southern Cameroons was represented on the Board of the Nigerian Broadcasting Corporation; and that the Corporation intended to set up a transmitter in the Southern Cameroons when funds permitted.

13. Sir Andrew COHEN (United Kingdom) thanked those delegations which had congratulated his Government on its work in the Cameroons under British administration. Although much had certainly been done, the Administering Authority was well aware of the problems which still had to be faced: expanding education and medical services, improving roads and water supplies, increasing the efficiency of agriculture and training a larger number of qualified Cameroonians.

14. All means of possible economic development would be used in the Territory. The United Kingdom believed in combining private enterprise and State enterprise and the approval of the local leaders had shown the United Kingdom that it was right. The cordial co-operation which existed between the people and their leaders, on the one hand, and the British officials, on the other, was particularly encouraging.

15. Future progress would depend more and more on the Cameroonians themselves. However, the United Kingdom Government would continue to help them as long as they wished.

16. He expressed his appreciation to the specialized agencies for their assistance to his Government and was happy to announce that UNESCO had just approved the United Kingdom Government's request for technical assistance in connexion with an adult literacy campaign.

17. The representative of Burma had questioned the competence of the representatives of the Territory who

had attended the London Conference to express the views of the mass of the people. In actual fact, the representatives of the Southern Cameroons had all been elected at the general election, which had been organized on a very wide franchise. The Northern Cameroons had been represented by a delegate who unquestionably had the general support of the inhabitants of the region and by delegates who, although they came from outside the Territory, nevertheless represented all the different political parties in the north. It was true that those who favoured unification had not been represented; but they had won only 2,000 votes in the last election.

18. For the rest, the London Conference should not be confused with the popular consultation in the Northern and Southern Cameroons, which would be held before Nigeria became independent and would decide the future status of the Territory. Suggestions had been made that that consultation would be influenced in some way by the Territory's existing connexion with Nigeria or by the financial difficulties of the Southern Cameroons. He quoted the Secretary of State's assurances at the London Conference to show that no pressure would be put on the Cameroonians. They would be able to say freely what their wishes were for the future. As for the "golden key" of the Bank of England, the Secretary of State had merely meant that the financial assistance the Territory would receive if it remained as a Trust Territory would not be unlimited—it certainly was not at present either. He did not of course mean that that assistance would be cut off.

19. Some representatives had criticized the United Kingdom for administering the Cameroons as an integral part of Nigeria; but that was an obligation which the United Kingdom had assumed when it had signed the Trusteeship Agreement. He quoted statements made by the United Kingdom representative in Sub-Committee I of the Fourth Committee, while the Trusteeship Agreement had been under negotiation, concerning the words "as an integral part of its territory".¹ Those words, which were included in paragraph 5 of the Trusteeship Agreement, had given rise to considerable discussion at that time but the United Kingdom interpretation of them had received the General Assembly's approval. If those words were included in the Trusteeship Agreements for the Cameroons and Togoland under British administration and not in the Agreement for Tanganyika, that was because Tanganyika was a large Territory which did not require such an arrangement.

20. The representative of Burma had said that the Administering Authority had succeeded in destroying Cameroonian unity and in absorbing the Territory into the Federation of Nigeria. But, given the terms of the Trusteeship Agreement and the fact that the General Assembly had approved the principle that the Territory should be administered as an integral part of Nigeria, it was difficult to see how the United Kingdom could have acted in any other way. What Cameroonian unity had been destroyed? A glance at the map was enough to show that unity could not be developed in the Territory, in practice, without some reference to the neighbouring countries. Preoccupation with an artificial unity based on a theoretical conception of a Trust Territory ran the risk of excluding the real interests of the inhabitants.

¹ See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Second part of the first session, Fourth Committee, Part II*, pp. 118-119.

21. He briefly outlined the development of the question of the boundaries of the Territory to disprove the Haitian representative's statement that they had been drawn without taking into account the interests of the population. In the north, there had always been considerable contact with Nigeria: some of the people had always been under the Nigerian authorities and the tribes were closely allied ethnically with the people of Nigeria. The situation in the south was different but the people of that area were not any more closely linked with those of the Cameroons under French administration than with Nigeria, and history showed that they had always turned towards the latter.

22. The people of the Northern Cameroons had never shown any desire to be separated from Nigeria. In the Southern Cameroons, public opinion was divided: the Kamerun National Congress (KNC) and the Kamerun People's Party (KPP) wanted union with an independent Nigeria, whereas the Kamerun National Democratic Party (KNDP) wanted the Territory to remain under trusteeship for a while. It would be for the majority to decide.

23. The USSR representative had suggested that the power of the High Commissioner to intervene where public order was concerned negated the value of the constitutional measures. Such a statement was quite uncalled-for. The arrangement was well known in British territories, where it had always worked perfectly smoothly. The occasions when a High Commissioner had to intervene were extremely rare.

24. The USSR representative had read out a long list of questions which the Southern Cameroons Government was not entitled to deal with, whereas the Government of the Federation of Nigeria could; but was that not the case in every federation? At all events, the Southern Cameroons was represented in the Federal Assembly and in the Federal Government; in the Senate, it had the same number of representatives as the other regions, although its population was less than one million.

25. With reference to the target dates to be fixed for accession to independence, he emphasized that the United Kingdom had given many proofs of its good intentions; it had given the impetus to the trend which would bring independence to Nigeria and it was acting in close co-operation with the representatives of the people concerned, settling each step in conference with them. In such circumstances, and given the view of one of the two main groups of opinion in the Cameroons, the KNDP, which favoured the continuation of trusteeship for a time and had not committed itself to any set date for independence, it would be meaningless and quite unnecessary to set theoretical target dates. Moreover, there was no mention of the actual fixing of a date in the Council resolutions of previous years.

26. He then turned to the remarks made by the representative of Guatemala at the 861st meeting about the timing of the popular consultation which would take place in the Cameroons before Nigeria achieved independence. Since those remarks were based on certain deductions about the date of Nigerian independence he thought it best to quote in full what had been said on that point in the report of the Conference.² The quotation that followed was to the effect that, about

² *Report by the Nigeria Constitutional Conference held in May and June, 1957*. Presented by the Secretary of State for the Colonies to Parliament by Command of Her Majesty, July 1957, Cmd. 207 (London, Her Majesty's Stationery Office).

January 1960, the Nigerian Parliament would probably debate a draft resolution asking the United Kingdom Government to grant the Federation full self-government by a definite date that year. The United Kingdom Government would then consider the Nigerian Parliament's request with sympathy and would indicate the date when it would accede to that request. The representative of Guatemala had mentioned two possible time-tables which, in his view might be followed for the popular consultation in the Cameroons under British administration. The time for detailed comment on such time-tables would come later, and he assured the members of the Council that the United Kingdom, as Administering Authority, would inform them of its plans as soon as it was in a position to do so. He would say, however, that he did not think the alternatives put forward by the representative of Guatemala were the only possible ones.

27. The Guatemalan representative had also suggested that the popular consultation might take place in the Cameroons under British administration at the same time as in the Cameroons under French administration. But when the time came to examine that apparently simple proposal he thought that it would be found to involve a number of serious and complex difficulties.

28. In conclusion, the United Kingdom representative emphasized the legitimate hopes engendered by the London Conference and the political development of the Federation of Nigeria, in which the Trust Territory took its share.

29. Mr. BENDRYSHEV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that his delegation's statements were always prompted by its interest in the progress of the Cameroonian people and its desire to see the purposes of the Trusteeship System achieved at the earliest date and not by a desire to please a representative of the Administering Authority. Referring to various remarks made by the United Kingdom representative he pointed out that that representative could not expect the Soviet delegation to speak on colonial matters from the same point of view as himself. The United Kingdom representative's statement about the administration of the Cameroons as an integral of Nigeria was merely an indication of the United Kingdom delegation's position; it was still a fact that the Trusteeship Agreement adopted by the Assembly did not mention Nigeria. As for comparing the division of powers between the Trust Territory and Nigeria with the division of powers within various Federal States, he would like to point out that any good analysis of the history of the creation of such states and their status would rule out such comparison.

30. U TIN MAUNG (Burma) said that the Burmese delegation had expressed its views, as it was entitled to, after making a careful study of the documents available to it. The drafting committee would no doubt bear in mind all the views expressed.

31. Sir Andrew COHEN (United Kingdom) said that each delegation was entitled to its own opinion but it was sometimes possible to convince a member of the Council of certain facts or of the deductions to be drawn from certain facts. It had been with that aim in view that he had drawn the attention of the Burmese and USSR representatives to various points.

APPOINTMENT OF THE DRAFTING COMMITTEE

32. The PRESIDENT suggested that the drafting committee should be composed of the delegations of

Australia, Belgium, India, and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.

It was so decided.

33. Mr. KIANG (China) said that his delegation had reservations with regard to the membership of the Drafting Committee.

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

(i) Annual report of the Administering Authority for 1956 (T/1351, T/1354, T/1363, T/L.813);

(ii) Petitions raising general questions (T/L.813, annex; T/PET.5/L.449-451)

[Agenda items 4 (d) and 5]

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 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 (continued)

34. Mr. KELLY (Australia) asked the special representative whether all persons eligible for registration in the electoral registers were now registered.

35. Mr. DENIAU (Special Representative) said that that was so, except for possible errors. In the elections of 23 December 1956 there had been between 1,800,000 and 1,900,000 registered voters.

36. Mr. KELLY (Australia) asked whether there were separatist tendencies in the northern provinces and whether mayors were elected or appointed.

37. M. DENIAU (Special Representative) replied that the Cameroonian Government and the Cameroonian Legislative Assembly had not yet completed the organization of the provinces. He read out a motion by the northern representatives indicating that the establishment of the northern province, which had been requested by the Assembly upon their motion, had been postponed for four years, at their own suggestion.

38. The mayors of rural communes were appointed and those of urban *communes de plein exercice* were elected by the municipal councils. There were no longer any appointed municipal councils except in the two *communes mixtes* of the North Cameroons. The appointed members were chosen from among officials and notables.

39. Mr. KELLY (Australia), referring to document T/L.813, felt that the last two sentences in the first paragraph under the heading "Political parties and activities", dealing with the banning of the UPC, might be misunderstood.

40. Mr. DENIAU (Special Representative) explained that there was no connexion between the banning of the UPC and that party's demands for the immediate unification and independence of the Cameroons. In fact, the UPC and its affiliates had been dissolved by the Decree of 13 July 1955 under an Act of January 1936 on fighting groups and private military forces; the members of the UPC had systematically resorted to violence in an effort to seize power.

41. Mr. KELLY (Australia) asked the special representative whether the 6,000 petitions received by the

Secretariat were the result of an intensive drive on the part of one political group or whether they reflected general trends of political opinion in some limited part of the Territory such as Sanaga-Maritime.

42. Mr. DENIAU (Special Representative) replied that most of the petitions were on mimeographed sheets. There were veritable petitions factories in the Cameroons under British administration, as could be gathered from the addresses given. There were so many confused statements and mistaken allegations in petitions that they bordered on fantasy; they were, to say the least, extremely inexact. The number of the petitions was in no way indicative of a strong trend of public opinion.

43. Mr. KELLY (Australia), referring to the telegram from Mr. Mbida addressed to the Secretary-General (T/PET.5/L.449) inquired whether the new Prime Minister of the Cameroons concurred in his predecessor's views on the hearings granted to certain Cameroonians by the Fourth Committee of the General Assembly at the twelfth session.

44. Mr. KOSCIUSKO-MORIZET (France) remarked that Mr. Mbida's reaction had been due to the fact that he was not familiar with United Nations procedure and that he had considered the petitioners to be directly responsible for several murders. At the time, the new Prime Minister had been Deputy Prime Minister.

45. In reply to questions by Mr. KELLY (Australia), Mr. DENIAU (Special Representative) stated that one of the aims of terrorist activities in a certain zone of the Territory was to impress the United Nations. Those acts of banditry had undoubtedly been encouraged by some of the measures taken by the United Nations, especially the hearings granted by the Fourth Committee to Mr. Felix Moumié and others, which many leaders of the terrorist groups had interpreted as a rejection of the Administering Authority's ban of the UPC.

The meeting was suspended at 4.30 p.m. and resumed at 4.45 p.m.

46. Mr. CLAEYS BOUUAERT (Belgium) said that, as he understood it, the amnesty law pardoned certain offences committed at certain times, provided for the release of persons already convicted of those offences, and exempted others from prosecution and from any danger of conviction; furthermore, when persons already convicted were amnestied, their case was stricken from the records. The fact that it was necessary to apply for the amnesty was a purely procedural matter and not one of substance. Furthermore, the acts which could be amnestied remained punishable; if the amnestied persons committed the same acts again they could be prosecuted.

47. Mr. KOSCIUSKO-MORIZET (France) replied that the interpretation was correct in every respect.

48. Mr. CLAEYS BOUUAERT (Belgium) remarked that page 45 of the annual report of the Administering Authority for 1956,³ stating that the Cameroonian Assembly could not create new posts, was probably no longer correct, in view of articles 11 and 25 of the Statute.⁴

³ *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 1956* (St-Ouen (Seine), Imprimerie Chaix, 1957). Transmitted to members of the Trusteeship Council by a note of the Secretary-General (T/1351).

⁴ The text of the Statute is reproduced in document T/1314.

49. Mr. DENIAU (Special Representative) said that the Prime Minister enforced the law and organized the State public services within the budget voted by the Legislative Assembly. That provision appeared in the organic law and not in the Statute. In order to create new administrative posts, the Legislative Assembly must at the same time provide for new revenue in the required amount or suppress other expenditures.

50. Mr. CLAEYS BOUUAERT (Belgium) asked whether the Cameroonian Government had the power to propose the appointment of district administrative officers (*chefs de circonscription*).

51. Mr. DENIAU (Special Representative) replied that under article 54 of the Statute that power was vested in the High Commissioner, but that in fact it was not unusual for the Prime Minister to suggest the names of possible appointees to the High Commissioner.

52. Mr. CLAEYS BOUUAERT (Belgium) inquired how many seats were reserved in some *circonscriptions* for naturalized French citizens (*citoyens de statut de droit commun*) elected by the voters as a whole, and what was the status of chiefs, who were not members of the electoral body, in the municipal councils.

53. Mr. DENIAU (Special Representative) explained that it had been decided in 1952 to reserve seats for naturalized citizens—European and French West Africans—who were to be elected jointly by the two electoral colleges. Only one or two of the fifteen or twenty seats had been so reserved. The provision had been applied only where naturalized citizens had been fairly numerous and it had not been introduced when rural communes had been established in the Bamiléké region and in the South Cameroons.

54. In certain rural communes chiefs of the highest rank formed a separate electoral college, distinct from the electoral body, and could be elected only by that college.

55. Mr. CLAEYS BOUUAERT (Belgium) observed that the councils of notables were regarded as representing an intermediate stage pending the development of the rural municipal organization. He wished to know why the councils were still in existence in some of the areas organized into rural communes.

56. Mr. DENIAU (Special Representative) said that the councils of notables, even where they existed at the same time as the rural communes, still had some value in that they were organized on a regional scale. They were still occasionally consulted on customary matters affecting the region as a whole, or sometimes even on economic or social problems. In the north, they were even more important than they had been in the past.

57. Mr. SYLVAIN (Haiti), referring to the Act of 20 December 1957, asked whether the appointment of Cameroonian civil servants was, in any way, subject to prior approval by the High Commissioner.

58. Mr. DENIAU (Special Representative) pointed out that the Act of 20 December 1957 did not go so far as to establish a statute for the Cameroonian civil service; it merely provided for the separation of the Cameroonian civil service from that of the metropolitan country as regards the method of remuneration of civil servants. Under article 48 of the Statute for the Territory the High Commissioner was informed of government administrative measures before they were put into effect; he therefore had the right to take the final decision with regard to the appointment of officials of the Cameroonian Government, but in practice, he did

not ask to be informed of each and every administrative measure.

59. Replying to a question by Mr. SYLVAIN (Haiti), Mr. DENIAU (Special Representative) said that in principle, the Cameroonian Government had no say as regards appointments of personnel in the services of the French Republic; under the Decree of 16 April 1957 setting forth the Statute of the Cameroons, that right was reserved to the French Government. However, there again, practice was more liberal than theory and the Cameroonian Government had on several occasions informed the High Commissioner, and sometimes the metropolitan authorities, of its views on the appointment of an official to the Cameroons.

60. Mr. SYLVAIN (Haiti) requested information on the future organization of the security forces in the Cameroons.

61. Mr. DENIAU (Special Representative) recalled the explanation he had given the Guatemalan representative at the previous meeting regarding the composition of the Cameroonian security forces. He added that some Cameroonian non-commissioned officers, recruited both from the Cameroonian Guard under the orders of the High Commissioner and from the Cameroonian Guard under the orders of the Cameroonian Government, were now taking courses to qualify for higher ranks, as there were not yet any Cameroonian officers in the Cameroonian forces.

62. Mr. SYLVAIN (Haiti) asked whether the amnesty law of 7 February 1957 covered all political offences committed in the Territory during the period from 2 May 1955 to 2 January 1956 or whether it specified the offences covered. He also inquired whether the UPC leaders in exile or in the *maquis* would benefit by the provisions of the law.

63. Mr. DENIAU (Special Representative) said that the law limited the offences for which amnesty would be granted to those committed during the incidents of May 1955 or just prior to that date, those committed during or about the time of the labour disputes and during electoral campaigns prior to 2 January 1956, and lastly, offences committed in the Cameroons prior to 2 January 1956 which were covered by certain provisions of the law on freedom of the Press. Some of the UPC leaders, who had been given minor penalties, might benefit from the amnesty law if they applied, while others who had been sentenced as accomplices in a murder, for example, would probably not benefit. He recalled that all offences which had warranted or might warrant sentences not exceeding twenty years at hard labour were covered by the amnesty, so that murder was virtually the only offence to which it did not apply.

64. Mr. SYLVAIN (Haiti) asked whether the special representative had any knowledge of official acts or texts of the UPC inciting to violence.

65. Mr. DENIAU (Special Representative) wished to make it clear that Cameroonian public opinion as a whole held the UPC responsible for the disturbances in the Cameroons. The authorities had in their possession a large number of UPC documents inciting to violence; most of them had been seized in November 1957 at the headquarters of the movement in Sanaga-Maritime or on couriers travelling between the Cameroons under British administration and the Cameroons under French administration. The UPC had gone so far as to establish a special terrorist unit known as the Comité national d'organisation, the functions of which were defined in a series of notes and reports circulating in Eséka subdivision.

66. Replying to a question by Mr. SYLVAIN (Haiti), Mr. KOSCZIUSKO-MORIZET (France), said that there was no question of repealing the decree which had dissolved the UPC, but that if the amnestied members of the party should wish to constitute another party which would observe Cameroonian laws, they would be free to do so.

67. Mr. SYLVAIN (Haiti) inquired about the causes of the disturbances constantly occurring in the Cameroons and the measures contemplated by the Administration to put an end to them.

68. Mr. DENIAU (Special Representative) replied that, in his opinion, a group of people wanted to seize power and thought they could accomplish it by violence. They subscribed to the Marxist theory that a minority, as soon as it became "conscious", could be more representative of public opinion in a country than the majority, and so they claimed that they represented the Cameroonian people. As an example, he referred to a text signed by the former General Secretary of the UPC dated August 1957.

69. Mr. SYLVAIN (Haiti), referring to a statement by Mr. Mbida, the former Prime Minister, asked whether, under the Statute, the High Commissioner was obliged to sign the order appointing ministers submitted to him by the Prime Minister.

Mr. Claeys Bouúaert (Belgium), Vice-President, took the Chair.

70. Mr. DENIAU (Special Representative) said that that was a question of interpretation of the Statute on which the High Commissioner and the Prime Minister appeared to have disagreed. The French Government, before which the question was supposed to be placed, had not yet stated its position on it.

71. Mr. THORP (New Zealand) asked whether the introduction of amendments to the Statute was the prerogative of the Government alone, or whether it could also be done by parties and individuals.

72. Mr. DENIAU (Special Representative) replied that under article 59 of the Decree of 16 April 1957 establishing the Statute of the Cameroons, it was for the Cameroonian Legislative Assembly to introduce amendments to the Statute. He had learned that two bills to amend certain provisions of the Statute had already been introduced by an "unaffiliated" (*non inscrit*) deputy.

73. Replying to another question by Mr. THORP (New Zealand), Mr. DENIAU (Special Representative) said that the Prime Minister could appoint as a member of his staff any expert or other person of his choice, whether or not he was a member of the Legislative Assembly.

74. To a further question by Mr. THORP (New Zealand), Mr. DENIAU (Special Representative) replied that in the absence of the laws provided for in article 38, which would have established the procedures for applying the chapter on provincial organization, the Legislative Assembly was perfectly free to adopt whatever legislation it deemed suitable, regardless of whether it was applicable to the North Cameroons.

75. Mr. THORP (New Zealand) asked whether the Cameroonian authorities could suspend the application of part of the Statute on their own initiative, in other words, without any action by the Administering Authority.

76. Mr. DENIAU (Special Representative) said that the Cameroonian authorities—the Government and the Assembly—had the power to establish the provincial system provided in the Statute or not, as they saw fit. The position was quite unusual: the French Government had included a number of provisions on provincial organization in the Statute, but had left it for the Cameroonian Government to decide whether they should be given effect.

77. Mr. THORP (New Zealand) referred to the disturbances which were still occurring in Sanaga-Maritime and asked what was the nature of the problem of maintaining public order: whether it involved bringing under control a hard core of dissidents, and whether the support enjoyed by the outlawed UPC fluctuated according to regions or according to issues.

78. Mr. DENIAU (Special Representative) recalled that despite the instructions of the UPC, a very high percentage of the population had voted in the elections of 23 December 1956 throughout the Territory, except in the Sanaga-Maritime, Douala and Margui-Wandala regions. Moreover, the UPC had on three occasions attempted to cause an uprising of the South Cameroons but, despite all its efforts, it had evoked a response only in certain well-defined sectors of the population in specific areas.

79. Mr. ZADOTTI (Italy) referred to article 14 of the Statute under which the Cameroonian Legislative Assembly would have the power to simplify and adapt the criminal procedure in order to take local conditions into account; he asked how that power of the Cameroonian authorities would be delimited in view of the

fact that the criminal procedure was directly linked to the Penal Code.

80. Mr. DENIAU (Special Representative) replied that the adaptations of the criminal procedure obviously could not infringe the provisions of the Penal Code. The Legislative Assembly could simplify the procedure, shorten the required time periods, etc.; such modifications would be very useful in a country where registration of births, marriages and deaths was still a very new institution and the concept of domicile was rather vague. On the other hand, under article 16 of the Statute, the Legislative Assembly had the power to provide correctional or police penalties for violations of Cameroons legislation, i.e., it could supplement the Penal Code or introduce additional offences.

81. Mr. DENIAU (Special Representative), replying to a question by Mr. ZADOTTI (Italy), confirmed his earlier statement to the Guatemalan representative to the effect that establishment of a new province would actually be an amendment of the Statute.

82. Replying to a question by Mr. ZADOTTI (Italy), Mr. DENIAU (Special Representative) said that all the courts of the so-called local law, that is, the courts of first and second degree, the courts of conciliation and the customary courts were exclusively within the jurisdiction of the Cameroonian authorities. Some of the courts of first and second degree were now headed by Cameroonian officials whereas formerly they had been headed by chief subdivisional officers for the courts of first degree, and by chief regional officers for the courts of second degree.

The meeting rose at 6.5 p.m.