



TRUSTEESHIP COUNCIL

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President: Mr. Girolamo VITELLI (Italy).

Present:

The representatives of the following States: Australia, Belgium, Bolivia, Burma, China, France, India, Italy, New Zealand, Paraguay, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Arab Republic, 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 New Guinea: annual report of the Administering Authority for the year ended 30 June 1959 (T/1514, T/1528, T/L.967, T/PET.8/L.5) (continued)

[Agenda item 3 (d)]

At the invitation of the President, Mr. Jones, special representative of the Administering Authority for the Trust Territory of New Guinea, took a place at the Council table.

GENERAL DEBATE (continued)

1. Sir Andrew COHEN (United Kingdom), continuing the statement he had begun at the previous meeting, referred to the land problem. To obtain an accurate view of that problem each of the separate pockets of population must, of course, be considered separately.

From the replies given by the special representative it was clear that at present there was no general shortage of land in the Territory. In certain areas shortages were beginning to appear or were likely to appear in the future, as a result of the introduction of cash crops and the consequent economic development and of the growth of population. The Administering Authority was clearly conscious of that situation and was taking measures to deal with it. In his view the representative of the United Arab Republic had admirably summed up the position in his statement at the 1083rd meeting.

2. With regard to land alienation, he recalled that the Council's Committee on Rural Economic Development had gone into the whole position very carefully less than two years previously and had made certain recommendations which had been adopted by the Council (A/3822, vol. I, p. 29). In particular the Council had recommended that the Administering Authority should, as far as practicable, limit further alienations of land in heavily populated areas to land required for public purposes. That recommendation had been accepted only after a good deal of argument and the Australian delegation had shown a certain caution on the subject at the time. The special representative had, however, now informed the Council that the Administering Authority was carrying out that policy and that land was alienated only by lease, after very careful inquiry by the Administration and only where the indigenous owners were willing and the Administration was satisfied that land was not required by the population of the area either at present or in the foreseeable future.

3. In reply to questions the special representative had stated that the alienation of land had been an influencing factor in development and had given great encouragement to the indigenous people to plant coffee and develop their land. He had also said that there had been no opposition to the scattered alienations that had taken place; indeed, he had informed the Council that in some instances indigenous owners had asked the district commissioner to arrange for Europeans to come and settle in their area to plant coffee. Some of those requests had been refused on the grounds that the people in question did not own enough land to warrant making part of it available to a non-indigenous inhabitant.

4. In short, it seemed to him that the Administering Authority's policy was in accordance with the Council's own recommendation, that it was cautious and that it was designed to promote the development and welfare of the people of the Territory. He could not support a recommendation, such as that suggested by the representative of India at the 1083rd meeting, that the Administering Authority should make no further alienations for settlement. In that connexion he pointed out that the phrase quoted by the Indian representative from article 8 of the Trusteeship Agree-

ment, in which the Administering Authority undertook "to ensure that no rights over native land in favour of any person not an indigenous inhabitant of New Guinea may be created or transferred", was followed by the words "except with the consent of the competent public authority". In other words, the article was intended to prevent indiscriminate alienation and to safeguard the interests of the indigenous inhabitants. He entirely agreed with the Indian representative that the rights of the inhabitants should be protected but he did not consider that that paragraph of the Trusteeship Agreement meant that there should be no alienation. It had been demonstrated by experience that some alienation might be valuable if properly controlled and might represent the interests and the wishes of the people. He did not feel that the Council was entitled to go further than its considered recommendation of two years previously.

5. He did not agree with the Indian representative that ninety-nine-year leases were necessarily too long. In some cases they were suitable, in others sixty years or less might be better.

6. In his opening remarks (1073rd meeting) the special representative had made perhaps the most important statement of the whole debate when he had said that, as a result of careful study, the Administration had evolved a new policy designed to enable the New Guineans, if they and their local communities so wished, to convert their customary land-holdings in particular areas into individual registered title. That policy was intended eventually to cover the whole Territory but would, of course, be carried out with all due caution, as was essential in dealing with land questions. Detailed plans were now being worked out. Desiring to establish beyond doubt what the purpose of the policy was, the United Kingdom representative had asked the special representative whether it was intended primarily to facilitate the resettlement of New Guineans in conditions where they could practise more economic agriculture or whether it was intended to facilitate new settlement by alienation. The special representative had explained that the purpose was to assist in the resettlement of the people of New Guinea and in particular to provide a form of land tenure more suitable for their agricultural and economic development and which would give them a title to the land on which they were working so that they could leave it to their heirs when they died. The special representative had also referred to the importance of associating the people of each area and their leaders as closely as possible with the new policy. The Council had been informed that the policy had been discussed at the recent conference of local government councils. He hoped that means might be found to associate representative New Guineans, where practicable, with the discussion of land policy at the centre as well as in the districts.

7. He considered that the Administering Authority should be congratulated on its new policy and should be given every encouragement to pursue it in close co-operation with the people.

8. It was clear from the annual report of the Administering Authority^{1/} and the statements of the

^{1/} Commonwealth of Australia, Report to the General Assembly of the United Nations on the Administration of the Territory of New Guinea from 1st July 1958, to 30th June 1959 (Canberra, A. J. Arthur, Commonwealth Government Printer), Transmitted to members of the Trusteeship Council by a note of the Secretary-General (T/1514).

special representative that the growth and expansion of cash crops among New Guineans was being actively pursued. His delegation had also been interested to hear the comments concerning secondary industries. That was a subject in which the Council naturally took a close interest, since every effort should be made to diversify the Territory's economy. He would, however, voice a word of caution: secondary industries, if badly chosen, could be a millstone round the neck of a country at an early stage of development; generally speaking they should be based on produce which not only came from the country but would be used there eventually in the form of the finished product. The growth of secondary industries should also be based on very careful economic analysis.

9. On the question of industrialization in general he would suggest that the Council should go no further than to say that, while diversification was desirable in principle and therefore some appropriate secondary industries should be encouraged, the most important task was to develop and increase the efficiency of agriculture.

10. Turning to the subject of political institutions, he said that the special representative had reported encouraging progress in the field of local government. He had been glad to hear of the developments in connexion with the training of local government staff. His delegation was pleased to note the success of the conference of local government councils and understood that such conferences would be held regularly in the future. Early effect should be given to as many of their recommendations as possible, and he hoped that a number of them would prove acceptable, since there was nothing more discouraging to such conferences than lack of action on their recommendations.

11. On the question of the Legislative Council he expressed the hope that as soon as the present litigation was completed, and of course subject to the decision reached, the Administering Authority would continue its consideration of the various proposals for changes that had been made. All the members of the Council would agree with the stated policy of the Administering Authority that, as suitable individuals became available, indigenous representation on the Legislative Council would be increased and the selection of members would be given a more widely representative character. Political education was of the utmost importance in building new nations; in the early stages it could be most appropriately given in the local government bodies, but education through the central institutions must have a great and growing importance. The wider that education could be and the earlier it could begin, the better it would be for the future of the country. A body like the present legislature of New Guinea and Papua was a valuable institution, since the officials responsible for policy, together with unofficial representatives and a small group of indigenous representatives, could discuss matters of policy and finance affecting the welfare and development of the Territory. The fact that the unofficial representatives could criticize the actions of the Administration had been proved by experience to be of great value. Until the legislature became more widely representative, however, it could not fulfil one of its most important purposes, that of political education; moreover, with such limited indigenous representation it could not provide a satis-

factory channel between the people and the Administration. At the present stage of development there were doubtless many technical matters on which great masses of the people would neither wish nor be qualified to put forward views, but there were other matters on which it might be valuable to hear their opinions through representatives covering much smaller areas than did the present two indigenous representatives. He appreciated the difficulties caused by diversity of languages and lack of experience, but in developing a country it might be found that the disadvantages of not having more indigenous representatives outweighed the difficulties. Perhaps some methods of overcoming those practical difficulties could be found; for example, special training in language and parliamentary procedure could be given to selected New Guineans. Perhaps when the litigation was completed that and other questions relating to the development of the Legislative Council would be fully considered by the Administering Authority. Progress must be gradual and adapted to the circumstances and aptitudes of the people; he doubted whether the Territory could move quite as fast as the Indian representative had seemed to suggest, but he hoped that early progress would be made towards giving the Legislative Council a more representative character.

12. Mr. OBEREMKO (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that it was apparent from the annual report, the reports of visiting missions and the petitions presented by indigenous inhabitants that virtually no progress had been made towards accomplishing the purposes of trusteeship in the Trust Territory. With all real authority concentrated in the hands of Australian officials, the indigenous inhabitants enjoyed neither political rights nor the fundamental human rights and freedoms. They were subject to arbitrary treatment by the Administration, the police and the courts; the recent killing of an indigenous inhabitant by a non-indigenous person was treated as a relatively minor offence and the offender was only fined £150, while indigenous inhabitants were dealt with harshly in the courts.

13. The indigenous inhabitants had nowhere to turn for just treatment. The headquarters of the Territorial Administration was situated outside the Territory, in the Australian colony of Papua. The Legislative Council of Papua and New Guinea—which had no real authority in any event—was composed primarily of appointed Australian officials and representatives of the religious missions, with only two indigenous members from the Trust Territory; despite the regret expressed at the twenty-second session of the Trusteeship Council at the inadequate indigenous representation in the Legislative Council, the Administering Authority had taken no action to correct the situation. Only one of the town advisory councils now included an indigenous member. In the district advisory councils, the indigenous population of nearly 1.5 million had a total of only seventeen representatives while the 15,000 Europeans had eighty representatives. The local government councils had purely advisory functions and, thirteen years after the establishment of the first such council, embraced a total area inhabited by less than 10 per cent of the indigenous population. The Administering Authority's contention that there was a shortage of qualified indigenous candidates for membership in the various councils had been refuted in a recent statement by

Mr. John W. Burton, former Secretary of the Australian Department of External Affairs.

14. The failure of the Administering Authority to carry out the aims of the United Nations Charter and the Trusteeship Agreement was shown by the continuing administrative union of the Trust Territory with the neighbouring Australian colony of Papua. Since it evidently did not intend to grant independence to Papua, the Administering Authority refused to comply with the General Assembly resolutions calling upon it to set target dates for the attainment of independence by the Trust Territory. The Trusteeship Council should refer the question of the administrative union of New Guinea and Papua to the Drafting Committee on New Guinea and to the Standing Committee on Administrative Unions for careful consideration and should recommend to the Administering Authority the adoption of a separate organic act for the Trust Territory and the establishment in the Trust Territory of separate legislative, executive and judicial organs formed on a democratic basis.

15. The economic situation in the Territory was still very difficult and, as had been pointed out by the United Nations Visiting Mission to the Trust Territories of Nauru, New Guinea and the Pacific Islands, 1959, was producing open expressions of popular discontent. The great majority of the indigenous inhabitants continued to live in extreme poverty; in many parts of the Territory they were barely able to support themselves by their primitive system of agriculture. The position of those who accepted wage employment was no better; plantation workers, for example, were paid less than one shilling a day. An added burden on the indigenous population was the unfair tax policy of the Administering Authority, under which a per caput tax of £2 was levied on every adult in the Territory. The Trusteeship Council should urge the Administering Authority to abolish the per caput tax and, instead, to tax the Australian and other foreign companies which were exploiting the Territory's natural resources and exporting large quantities of copra, timber, gold, cocoa and other raw materials from the Territory. It should also urge the Administering Authority to draft a plan for provision of the funds, materials and personnel required to ensure the economic development of the Territory in the interest of the indigenous inhabitants rather than in the interest of Australia and the foreign companies. At the present time, the Administering Authority was concerned only with developing the Trust Territory as a source of cheap raw materials and a market for Australian goods. Because of Australia's fear of competition for its own markets, food crops had been insufficiently developed in the Territory even though all the necessary climatic and other conditions were present; as a result, imports of foodstuffs from Australia were increasing and now comprised 25 per cent of the Territory's total imports.

16. The Territory continued to suffer from an acute shortage of hospitals and medical personnel. The Administering Authority had thus far failed to take the necessary steps to train indigenous medical personnel, even though it was obvious that the Territory's needs could not be fully met by bringing in personnel from Australia. If it intended to meet its obligations under the Trusteeship Agreement, the Administering Authority must provide from its own budget, rather than from taxes levied upon the popu-

lation, the funds needed for the construction of hospitals and the training of medical personnel.

17. The intolerable situation with regard to education was evidenced by the fact that, after more than forty years of Australian administration of the Territory, some 90 per cent of the indigenous population remained illiterate. Although the Administering Authority had set universal primary education as its objective, it was not taking practical steps to implement that aim; there were only 455 teachers at present in the Administration schools, whereas, according to the Director of Education, at least 1,000 European teachers and 10,000 indigenous teachers were needed.

18. The only secondary school set up by the Administration in the Trust Territory failed to offer a complete course of secondary education; moreover, the number of indigenous pupils at the school had dropped from sixty-four in 1958 to thirty in the year under review. Indigenous inhabitants could obtain a complete secondary education or a higher education only if they were granted scholarships for study in Australia; there had been only twenty-four such scholarship-holders attending secondary schools in Australia in 1958 and only twenty-five in the year under review. The Trusteeship Council must recognize that the educational situation in the Territory was completely unsatisfactory and must recommend that the Administering Authority should take urgent measures to improve it.

19. The Administering Authority continued to maintain that it was unrealistic to set target dates for the Territory's attainment of independence, inasmuch as the future course of social and political development in the Territory could not be foreseen at the present time. Even the Australian Minister for Territories, however, had acknowledged in November 1959 that pressure for political development was becoming increasingly strong in the Trust Territory and that it was impossible to maintain the latter permanently in a colonial status, New Guinea could not remain an exception to the world-wide trend towards the disintegration of the colonial system and the liberation and independence of colonial and Trust Territories. The Trusteeship Council must adopt recommendations at the present session which would contribute to the earliest possible attainment by the Territory of the objectives of the Trusteeship System.

20. Mr. BAL (Belgium) said that the supplementary documentation, including maps and photographs, provided by the Administering Authority gave a vivid picture of the difficulties confronting the Administration in its task of bringing civilization to New Guinea; it brought to mind the fundamental truth that, in order to be effective, any measure designed to further the development of a Territory should be based on the actual circumstances of the Territory, and, while showing the distance yet to be covered by the Territory before it attained self-government or independence, it revealed the important results already achieved by the Administering Authority.

21. The fact that there were still large tracts of New Guinea which had not been brought under full Administration control showed the magnitude of the task the Administering Authority had undertaken. However, instead of waiting until it had established its authority over the whole Territory, the Administration had already started to train indigenous administrators, teachers and medical personnel.

22. Whenever the Administration extended its authority to cover a new area, its first care was to safeguard the welfare of the inhabitants, beginning with matters of public health. The Belgian delegation had been particularly struck by the considerable increase in the number of medical consultations during the year under review. The allocations for public health services had risen, new efforts had been made to control malaria, new hospitals and medical stations had been opened and efforts had been made to recruit the necessary medical personnel. The increase in the number of medical practitioners and assistants, together with the training programmes provided by Papuan Medical College and the Rabaul hospital, afforded tangible proof of the Administering Authority's concern with the vitally important field of public health.

23. There was no doubting the Administration's anxiety to raise the level of living of the indigenous population. In the year under review special attention had been given to agriculture. It was encouraging to note that surveys had been undertaken in the more densely populated areas where a land shortage was likely to develop and that preliminary studies were being made with a view to the preparation of resettlement projects. His delegation had been interested to note that the Administering Authority was actively studying the very important question of land ownership and that its policy in the field was undoubtedly designed to guarantee to the indigenous population the land they would need for further agricultural development. Worthy of special mention were the new efforts to improve indigenous agricultural methods in order to improve the indigenous diet and to raise agricultural production. Those efforts should banish any fear that the Administering Authority was not trying to provide more than a minimum subsistence for the people or that it was making no effort to promote the production of articles for export or to foster industrial development. His delegation felt that the extension activities of the Department of Agriculture and the decision to establish a college of agriculture in the Territory were most commendable, for they should lead to a further increase in indigenous production, encourage the already growing export trade and stimulate the development of New Guinean industry.

24. The Administration had undoubtedly shown wisdom in promulgating new labour legislation to give the individual indigenous inhabitant firm legal guarantees and to prevent the social structure from undergoing too rapid or anarchic a change. That action, as well as the adoption of such measures as the Corrective Institutions Ordinance and the various efforts made to improve the status of indigenous women, demonstrated the Administering Authority's interest in social questions in general.

25. From the foregoing, it was clear that the Administering Authority was endeavouring to guarantee to the people of New Guinea the level of material welfare basic to any healthy political community. In line with its policy of building a society from the bottom upwards, the Administering Authority had continued to provide suitable institutions for those local communities which seemed able and willing to undertake political activity. His delegation had followed with interest the establishment of Native local government councils and the increase in the number of indigenous inhabitants subject to their authority; it had also been

much interested in the regional conference of local government councils held in June 1959.

26. In the final analysis, the development of a Territory depended upon its people's awareness of the existence of a common interest and their ability and willingness to find common solutions to their problems. The encouragement given to the local government councils and to the conference of those councils showed that the policy of the Administration was based on that premise and that it was laying a firm foundation for the new nation. The information given on the education of the indigenous inhabitants led to the same conclusion.

27. At the present time, any community aspiring to self-government or independence must be in possession of a political, economic and social apparatus that was of necessity highly complex; in building such an apparatus for New Guinea, Australia would bring it from the Stone Age, in some areas, to the nuclear or space age. The information supplied to the Council showed that the Administering Authority was fully aware of the many obstacles on that path and that, in preferring an empirical approach to one of abstract theory, it would devote all its resources to meeting those difficulties.

28. While it could not be expected that New Guinea would make spectacular progress in each field every year, it was cause for satisfaction that the Territory was making steady progress, and the best augury for such progress in the future was the Administration's efforts to win the co-operation of the inhabitants, not by force and constraint, but by persuasion and encouragement.

29. Mr. MONTERO DE VARGAS (Paraguay) observed that during the year under review slow but steady progress had been made in the political field. He regretted, however, that there were still no political organizations in the Territory and felt that the Administering Authority should try to encourage their establishment. The lack of political awareness on the part of the indigenous inhabitants had been made evident on the occasion of the conference of Native local government councils at Madang, when the delegates had approved a resolution opposing the establishment of new regional councils. He therefore hoped that the Administering Authority would take steps to make clear to the indigenous inhabitants the advantages which greater political activity would have for them. He was pleased to note that there was now a body of about 500 indigenous inhabitants in the Territory whose experience as councillors qualified them for service at a higher level. The Administering Authority was to be commended on that achievement.

30. While he recognized that the religious missions had made a great contribution to the Territory's advancement he thought that they should not be represented on the Legislative Council. In the interests of the political education of the people the seats now occupied by missionaries, who in any case would not continue to exercise legislative functions in the future, should be occupied by indigenous inhabitants.

31. He shared the Burmese representative's concern at the absence of a satisfactory name for the

Territory; if it was true that the indigenous inhabitants themselves were not concerned about it the Administering Authority should strive to arouse in them an awareness of the importance of the problem, for it was essential that the Territory should have a single, generally accepted name if the people were to feel that they all belonged to one political, social and economic community.

32. His delegation noted with satisfaction the special efforts which the Administering Authority had been making to promote the Territory's economic advancement. It was to be congratulated on the increase in the production of copra and coconut oil. He agreed with the representative of India, however, that the indigenous copra producers should be adequately represented on the Copra Marketing Board. One of the most important requirements for economic advancement was the construction of roads: it was discouraging to note that only seventy-three miles of road had been built in the Territory during the year under review. He realized that it was extremely expensive to build roads in the mountainous areas but he did not think that should be allowed to stand in the way of an adequate road-building programme, for experience had shown that the roads which were most expensive to build were the very roads which paid for themselves most rapidly by stimulating economic and social development. He acknowledged the efforts made by the Administering Authority to improve air communications but that means of communication by itself was not sufficient to ensure the Territory's economic progress. He would therefore like to suggest that the Administering Authority should draw up a road-building programme which the Council could examine at its next session.

33. As far as public health was concerned, the most urgent problem was malnutrition. He was aware of the efforts which the Administering Authority was making to overcome it but felt that in view of the seriousness of the problem a well-planned and intensive programme to combat malnutrition should be put into effect immediately to supplement the existing programme. Another major health problem was malaria; he hoped that the Administering Authority would be able to bring it under control in a shorter time than the period of more than ten years which was now envisaged.

34. Everything that the Administering Authority could do to promote the educational advancement of the population would, of course, be a contribution to the process of preparing them for the attainment of self-government or independence. There was a growing need for teachers and for more secondary schools. His delegation was disturbed at the slow rate of progress in secondary education and had noted with concern that the lack of schools made it necessary to send students to Australia at considerable expense to the Territorial Administration.

35. In conclusion he expressed the hope that despite the difficulties of climate and terrain and the human problems involved the Administering Authority would accelerate the pace of development in the political, economic, social and educational fields.

Examination of conditions in the Trust Territory of the Cameroons under United Kingdom administration (T/1526):

- (i) Annual report of the Administering Authority for the year 1958 (T/1494, T/1499, T/1524, T/1527, T/L.956 and Add.1);
- (ii) Petitions and communications raising general questions (T/PET.4/L.12-83; T/PET.4 and 5/L.35-74; T/COM.4/L.33, 36-38, 40, 42-47, 49-52; T/COM.4 and 5/L.3-6);
- (iii) Report of the Administering Authority on the separation of the administration of the Northern Cameroons from that of Nigeria (General Assembly resolution 1473 (XIV)) (T/1530)

[Agenda items 3 (c), 4 and 17]

OPENING STATEMENTS

36. Sir Andrew COHEN (United Kingdom) said that in accordance with General Assembly resolutions 1352 (XIV) and 1473 (XIV) plebiscites were to be held in the Northern Cameroons and in the Southern Cameroons. The arrangements for the plebiscites would begin on 30 September 1960 and the plebiscites were to be concluded not later than March 1961. In them the people of the Northern Cameroons and the Southern Cameroons would be asked whether they wished to achieve independence by joining the independent Federation of Nigeria or by joining the independent Republic of Cameroun. The preparations for the plebiscites, which had been prescribed by the General Assembly, were going forward in consultation with the United Nations Plebiscite Commissioner, Mr. Djalal Abdoh. Sir Andrew did not think that any action was required of the Council in that connexion. Nevertheless General Assembly resolution 1473 (XIV), which dealt with the Northern Cameroons, requested the Administering Authority to report to the Trusteeship Council at its twenty-sixth session on the process of separation of the administration of the Northern Cameroons from that of Nigeria. General Assembly resolution 1352 (XIV), which dealt with the Southern Cameroons, did not specifically require the Administering Authority to report to the Trusteeship Council but his Government had felt that the proper course was to do so. The report regarding the Northern Cameroons would be found in document T/1530 and that regarding the Southern Cameroons in document T/1526. The Council would see from those documents that much action had been taken. The process of separation had already started and would, of course, be completed by 1 October 1960, in accordance with the General Assembly resolutions. The documents also described the steps which had been taken for the reconstitution and democratization of the local authorities in the Northern Cameroons and in particular for their separation in certain cases from the local authorities in Northern Nigeria.

37. Mr. Field, the special representative for the Trust Territory, would make a statement informing the Council of recent developments in the Territory.

38. He introduced to the Council Alhaji Ali Akilu, who had been closely and personally concerned with the process of the separation of the Northern Cameroons and had, indeed, been the Secretary of the Commission of Enquiry referred to in the document.

At the invitation of the President, Mr. Field, special representative of the Administering Authority

for the Trust Territory of the Cameroons under United Kingdom administration, took a place at the Council table.

39. Mr. FIELD (Special Representative) said that he would not go into detail concerning the arrangements for separating the two parts of the Territory from Nigeria on 1 October 1960 since they were dealt with at length in the supplementary reports (T/1526, T/1530) on the measures being taken to give effect to the resolutions adopted by the General Assembly at its fourteenth session. He would therefore confine himself to a few general observations on the affairs of the Territory.

40. In earlier years the special representative had appeared before the Council to explain the actions of the Administering Authority; at the present session, however, his task would be mainly to explain the policies and actions of the elected ministers to whom responsibility for the internal affairs of the Territory had been progressively handed over.

41. Some members of the Council might wonder what the position of Mr. Foncha, the Premier of the Southern Cameroons, was now that a member of the Government party had crossed the floor, bringing the number of elected members on each side of the House of Assembly to thirteen: Mr. Foncha had not been defeated on a major issue of policy and accordingly had not resigned or asked for a dissolution of the House and a new election. As far as the positions of the non-elected members of the House were concerned, the special members, although appointed to represent certain special interests, did not sit in the House as the delegates of those interests but were there to strengthen it with their special knowledge and experience. They were not subject to the party whips and were free to vote for or against the Government on any issue or to abstain from voting if they saw fit. The ex-officio members, on the other hand, voted with the Government on all issues of policy decided in the Executive Council in accordance with the principle of collective ministerial responsibility, but did not take part in the debate or vote on motions submitted by either side of the House which were purely a matter of party politics. At the most recent session of the House none of the resolutions or bills concerning government business had been opposed by the Opposition and the Government party had therefore not had to rely on the votes of the ex-officio members to carry them through.

42. Cameroonians were continuing to be trained to occupy senior posts in the Southern Cameroons Public Service and there were now seventy Cameroonians holding such posts as compared with 149 held by expatriates and Nigerians. That was a considerable improvement on the position at the end of 1958, when only twenty-one Cameroonians had held such posts. Progress would, of course, have been faster if the Government had been the only competitor for the services of qualified Cameroonians; they were, however, equally sought after by the Cameroons Development Corporation, by private commercial enterprises and by the missions.

43. A large number of pupils were now completing secondary education and the amount provided in the budget for scholarships for higher education had consequently been increased from £20,000 to £50,000. There were at present 135 Cameroonians studying at

universities and other institutes of higher education outside the Cameroons. In addition, a clerical training school where Cameroonians could be trained for pensionable posts in the clerical grades had been established at Bamenda during the past year and a new training establishment was being completed which would qualify Cameroonians for service in the higher administrative and executive grades. Similar instruction was being given to Northern Cameroonians at the Institute of Administration at Zaria.

44. The most important development in the Northern Cameroons was the introduction of fundamental reforms in local government in accordance with General Assembly resolution 1473 (XIV). As the details of those reforms had been fully set out in the Administering Authority's special report on the subject (T/1530) and Alhaji Ali Akilu would supply any further information that the Council might require, he would simply draw attention to the more important aspects of the reforms. Firstly, districts formerly administered by the Adamawa or Dikwa Native Authorities had now been established as separate Native Authorities in no way subordinate to either Dikwa or Adamawa. All those Native Authorities now lay wholly within the Trust Territory and had been grouped to form homogeneous units based on affinities of language and customs. Secondly, all the Native Authority councils were to consist of persons who had first been elected to the district councils by secret ballot on the basis of adult male suffrage and had subsequently been elected from the latter councils by secret ballot to the Native Authority councils. Those reforms had been worked out in consultation with the people themselves, who had expressed their satisfaction with them and there was now every reason to believe that the foundations had been laid for the development of a fully democratic form of local government in the areas in question.

45. It would be recalled that in 1957 the Federal and Southern Cameroons Governments had jointly approached the Colonial Development Corporation with a view to interesting it in participating in the Cameroons Development Corporation, which had lacked adequate capital to develop its full potential. The negotiations had been brought to a successful conclusion in 1959, when the two Governments and the Colonial Development Corporation had entered into an agreement whereby the latter had undertaken to invest £3 million in the Cameroons Development Corporation. As a result the Cameroons Development Corporation would now for the first time have assured capital resources at its disposal to enable a long-term development programme to be carried out. It should be noted that the Colonial Development Corporation's investment was not in any way dependent on the Southern Cameroons remaining in the Federation of Nigeria.

46. Timber exports had risen from 1,475 tons in 1955 to 115,974 in 1959 and revenue from royalties and export duties on timber now totalled £130,000 per annum. The industry employed some 1,300 workers, many of whom were being trained in specialized skills. An improvement in the standard of housing was already becoming noticeable as a result of the establishment of a new sawmill, the greater part of whose output was sold locally for housing construction. The timber companies had built excellent all-season roads which were making many square miles

of formerly inaccessible land available for cultivation; some of the best bananas were now being grown by peasant farmers in areas which two years earlier had been uninhabited jungle.

47. Cocoa production was increasing steadily, thanks to the use of improved tree stock and better control of diseases by sprays and insecticides provided through the co-operative societies. Over 600 improved drying-ovens had been erected through the combined efforts of the Agricultural Department, the co-operative societies and private enterprise, with the result that not a single case of "smokiness" had been reported in 1959. The discount on Cameroons cocoa had consequently been reduced from £12 to £2.10s.0d. a ton, representing a gain to the farmers of some £50,000 a year. The eradication of "smokiness" had unfortunately unmasked another taint in Cameroons cocoa caused by a mould which grew in the bean between drying and delivery to the manufacturer, but intensive efforts were being made to overcome it so that Cameroons cocoa would be able to command the full price on the world market.

48. In 1959 the Cameroons Development Corporation's tea estate at Tole had produced over 52,000 pounds of tea of a sufficiently good quality to fetch 3d. a pound more on the London market than similar teas from other areas. The Southern Cameroons Development Agency was helping to finance the establishment of a sea fishing industry in the Southern Cameroons which not only would be a source of income but would help to make additional sources of protein available to the local inhabitants. The Southern Cameroons legislature had enacted a sea fisheries law to protect the inshore fishery from poaching by unauthorized vessels.

49. School attendance was increasing annually and the number of girls now receiving primary education accounted for a third of the total enrolment, while there had also been a significant increase in the proportion of girls completing the full primary course.

50. The staffing problems of the Institute of Agriculture at Bambui had been solved and it had expanded its activities to include, *inter alia*, courses in practical farming for peasants with minimum educational qualifications.

51. Thanks to the assistance given by WHO and UNICEF, yaws was no longer a major public health problem in the Southern Cameroons, although it was not likely to be completely eradicated until the sources of infection in neighbouring territories had been eliminated. Leprosy clinics were being opened in steadily increasing numbers in both the Northern and the Southern Cameroons and it was encouraging to note that the attitude of the people, which had formerly dictated the ostracism of lepers, was now changing. UNICEF had supplied drugs for the treatment of the disease.

52. In community development work the main effort had been directed towards the construction of roads. Over a hundred miles of new roads leading through mountainous terrain to formerly inaccessible areas had been constructed in 1959. That work had been greatly assisted by an expert whose services had been made available by UNESCO.

53. The decision to separate both parts of the Territory from Nigeria had naturally created fresh ad-

ministrative problems and the uncertainty about the outcome of the plebiscite had inevitably slowed down the rate of development to some extent. Nevertheless the year had been one of steady advances on all fronts and the level of living of the population was noticeably higher than in the past.

54. He had already mentioned the aid given to the Territory by WHO, UNICEF and UNESCO in their respective fields. He would like also to acknowledge the Territory's debt to FAO for its investigation of the possibilities of developing a trade in refrigerated meats, to the United States International Cooperation Administration for its generous grant towards the cost of the Mamfe-Cross River road and for supplying a manual training expert to train handicraft teachers for Cameroonian schools, and, finally, to those States Members of the United Nations which had granted scholarships for higher education for young people from the Territory.

Revision of the Questionnaire relating to Trust Territories: reports of the Sub-Committee on the Questionnaire (T/1456, T/1488) (continued)*

[Agenda item 9]

EIGHTH PROGRESS REPORT (T/1488) (continued)

55. The PRESIDENT recalled that the Chairman of the Sub-Committee on the Questionnaire had introduced the Sub-Committee's eighth report (T/1488) at the 1052nd meeting. He proposed that the Council should consider the annex to the report question by question.

56. Mr. FORSYTHE (Australia) pointed out that the Administering Authority had submitted a number of comments (T/1456) on the proposed revision of the Questionnaire, some of which had been accepted. While he would not ask for a detailed reconsideration of each recommended revision, he would like to bring two matters to the attention of the Council at the appropriate time.

Revised questions 21, 22 and 24 were adopted.

57. Mr. ACLY (United States of America) suggested the addition of the words "and Trusteeship Council" between the words "General Assembly" and "resolutions" in question 28A, since there were also Trusteeship Council resolutions on the same subject.

Question 28A, as thus amended, was adopted.

58. Mr. FORSYTHE (Australia) said that his delegation found the sentence "Explain the measures

adopted to prevent these arrangements from exercising influence on the part of the British Phosphate Commissioners upon the budget of the Territory" in the fourth paragraph of question 50A objectionable, since it implied that the Administering Authority had placed itself in a position where its agents could prevent it from properly carrying out its obligations as a trustee. The budget estimates were prepared by the Administrator and approved by the Administering Authority; the British Phosphate Commissioners were then required to make available the necessary funds. The Commissioners did not in fact play any part in formulating the budget.

59. He therefore suggested the following wording, which would be acceptable to the Australian delegation: "Do the present arrangements enable the British Phosphate Commissioners to exercise any influence upon the budget of the Territory?"

Question 50A, as thus amended, was adopted.

Questions 58A, 63A, 68A, 68B, 68C and 69A were adopted.

Revised question 75 was adopted.

Question 80A was adopted.

60. Mr. FORSYTHE (Australia) said that his delegation was dissatisfied with the third and fourth paragraphs of question 100A, namely: "State whether any steps had been taken to improve working conditions for Nauruans in the phosphate industry" and "If so, give details". If the answer to the first sentence were in the negative, the implication would be that the Administration was not discharging its responsibilities properly. In addition, his delegation felt that the questions were superfluous since the matter of working conditions was covered elsewhere in the Questionnaire (T/1010). Since the matter had been thoroughly considered by the Sub-Committee, however, he would not suggest the deletion of the two paragraphs but would propose their replacement by the following: "Give details of any steps taken to improve the working conditions for Nauruans in the phosphate industry."

Question 100A, as thus amended, was adopted.

Question 104A was adopted.

Revised questions 117, 132 and 150 were adopted.

Question 166A was adopted.

Revised question 172 was adopted.

Questions 175A, 176A and 185 were adopted.

The special questionnaire for the Trust Territory of Nauru (T/1488, annex), as amended, was adopted.

The meeting rose at 5.40 p.m.

* Resumed from 1072nd meeting.