



TRUSTEESHIP COUNCIL

Twenty-sixth Session

OFFICIAL RECORDS

Friday, 20 May 1960,
at 2.40 p.m.

NEW YORK

CONTENTS

	Page
<i>Examination of conditions in the Trust Territory of New Guinea: annual report of the Administering Authority for the year ended 30 June 1959 (continued)</i>	
General debate (concluded)	255
Appointment of the Drafting Committee on New Guinea	259
<i>Examination of conditions in the Trust Territory of the Cameroons under United Kingdom administration (continued):</i>	
(i) Annual report of the Administering Authority for the year 1958;	
(ii) Petitions and communications raising general questions;	
(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))	
Request for a hearing (continued)	260
Questions concerning the Trust Territory and replies of the representative and special representative of the Administering Authority (concluded)	260

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 (concluded)

1. Mr. HOOD (Australia) said that before the special representative made his final comments he would like to state that the Australian Government as the Administering Authority for the Territory felt that although there had been no particularly outstanding developments during the year under review a steady rate of progress towards the attainment of the objectives of the Trusteeship System in general and of the Trusteeship Agreement for New Guinea in particular had been maintained.

2. Mr. JONES (Special Representative) said that he and his colleagues had been greatly impressed by the thoughtful and constructive approach of most representatives on the Council, which was of the greatest assistance to the Administering Authority.

3. The difficulties which abounded in the task of bringing a dependent people such as the people of New Guinea step by step towards the objectives defined in the Charter could be overcome by the Administering Authority only through the patience of dedicated men and women. Such Australian men and women in ever greater numbers were at work in the Trust Territory, where the situation was becoming increasingly complex through the demands and pressures of the twentieth century. They worked in the atmosphere of a great tradition of peaceful penetration and service which had been built up by their predecessors. Not only the people of New Guinea and those of Australia, but also the whole body of the United Nations owed a great debt to those officers. He and his colleagues had therefore listened with appreciation to the tributes paid to their fellow countrymen by several representatives on the Council.

4. The officers in the Territory worked in circumstances which were unique and which had been described to the Council by the United Kingdom representative, who had recently visited New Guinea. He would therefore merely make a brief reference to the difficulties arising from the geography, topography and climate of the Territory, its multiplicity of languages, the isolation of its various human groups and its primitive loneliness. Those factors were appreciated by the members of the Council who had had the opportunity to visit New Guinea and by others whose knowledge had been gained by vicarious means and by the vigour of their own imagination. He would, however, like to refer in some detail to one factor which he did not think had been fully appreciated by a few members of the Council: the primitive circumstances of the lives of many of the indigenous people. For many centuries, perhaps thousands of years, the people of the Territory had lived in a state of ignorance and savagery. Each group, the largest numbering no more than a few thousand, had lived in a state of virtual isolation with

* Resumed from the 1085th meeting.

no knowledge of anything more than a small distance beyond their own tribal areas and no concept whatsoever of the larger country in which they lived. Their lives had been conditioned by primitive taboos and customs. Their savagery had often been characterized by such customs as cannibalism and head-hunting. They had been habituated to constant violence both outside and within the tribal groups. They had lived in a state of almost constant war with their neighbours. They had been shadowed by fear of their fellow men and the fears created in their own minds through their primitive superstitions, which formed their only concept of religion. They had been wasted by many diseases for which they had no remedies. Except for barbaric ornaments and primitive coverings they had gone naked. They had developed only the most primitive arts and could neither read nor write. That primitive state had existed, not in long past ages, but within the lifetime of men and women still living; indeed it still existed in some measure and was only now giving way before the patient efforts of such men and women as those to whom he had referred in his opening remarks.

5. The world at large had evolved very gradually to its present stage in civilization and even now must exert constant efforts to avoid lapsing from the high standards it set itself. The people whom he had described could hardly be expected to attain in one or two generations the standards accepted by the civilized world. That being so, there was no justification for the terms which the USSR representative had used in his comments on the efforts made by the Administering Authority. Despite the continuing efforts of the Australian delegation to place all the relevant facts before him, the USSR representative could find nothing to commend in the efforts of either the Government or the individual officers concerned. Thus he destroyed his own case and rendered valueless those criticisms which he might justifiably have made. In asserting, for example, that the people of the Territory were subject to arbitrary action, he completely ignored the existence of the whole body of law which protected their rights with a compassion and an understanding which, because of their greater advancement, the Administering Authority did not feel called upon to exercise in the case of its own nationals. He had referred in detail to the so-called Sear case, as set out in document T/PET.8/14, thereby anticipating the recommendations of the Standing Committee on Petitions and disregarding similar cases which had been placed before that Committee and which showed that on several occasions, in almost completely parallel circumstances, the penalties inflicted on indigenous offenders had been lighter than the one inflicted in that case and that indeed in some cases no penalty at all had been inflicted.

6. The USSR representative had quoted extensively from the *South Pacific Post*, a commercial and often ill-informed publication, as though it were in some way a competent judge and jury established to try Administration actions and attitudes. He had said that that paper was published at the headquarters of the Administration of the United Territory of Papua and New Guinea, whereas of course the paper had nothing whatsoever to do with the headquarters of the Administration as such. He had asserted that the Administering Authority had been carrying out what he described as a typical colonial policy in New Guinea. That assertion, incidentally, was in fundamental contradic-

tion to the view expressed by the representative of Burma, who had spoken of the earnestness and enthusiasm with which the Administering Authority had endeavoured to live up to its traditions and ideals in the Trust Territory and of the pioneering and humanitarian ideals and spirit for which Australia was well known throughout the world.

7. The USSR representative had complained that the policy carried out by Australia in Papua was identical with that in the Trust Territory. He must, however, be aware that that was no matter for reproach, since the situation was clearly explained in the very book from which he had himself quoted statements by the Australian Minister for Territories and that book showed the nobility of Australia's aims and purposes in relation to the two Territories.

8. The USSR representative, distorting the words of the United Nations Visiting Mission to the Trust Territories of Nauru, New Guinea and the Pacific Islands, 1959, had asserted that the broad masses of the population of New Guinea were openly expressing their dissatisfaction with the policy of the Administering Authority. Having regard to the isolation, the spread and the inarticulateness of so many of the people of the Trust Territory, that was not only inaccurate but impossible. He had referred to foreign companies and Australian colonialists who were exploiting the natural resources of the Territory but had omitted to say how very few Australian "colonialists" there were in the Territory or to specify how the alleged exploitation was taking place. The Administering Authority, by ever-increasing grants, was supporting and developing the Territory to the extent of millions of pounds annually provided in the Australia budget. The USSR representative had alleged that the indigenous inhabitants were being deprived of any opportunity of obtaining at least a primary education, whereas of course in their natural state no vestige of such opportunity had existed and the Administration, far from depriving them of education, was in fact providing opportunities where none had previously existed.

9. Some of the other representatives on the Council had felt it their duty to criticize some of the Administering Authority's actions and policies. As he had already said, the Administering Authority found objective and constructive criticism stimulating and helpful. The records of all the discussions in the Council would be carefully read and considered in Australia and in the Territory. In the meantime he would refer to certain instances in which he felt the criticism had gone astray.

10. With regard to land policy, he would draw attention to the measured assessment made by the United Kingdom representative, who had recently visited New Guinea and possessed wide experience in dependent areas. In relation to land policy the Administering Authority was proceeding judicially, scientifically and in full awareness of the importance of the matter. The root of the problem lay in the past of the people concerned, the past in which land had been recognized as vital and in which land systems had been organized on a group basis which was completely at variance with present-day circumstances and hampered the development of land policies designed for the benefit of the indigenous peoples themselves. To unravel that situation would require not only all the patience and vigour which any Administration could muster but also all the

understanding and help which the Trusteeship Council could give. In that connexion he would add that his reference to land for "subsistence" had not been meant to imply that the Administering Authority was not working vigorously on land development problems. Nevertheless, present needs must not be sacrificed to hopes for the future.

11. Labour problems were vital in both the economic and the social fields. As the Council was aware, new labour legislation would shortly come into operation. During the debate particular reference had been made to the question of wages and in that connexion he would stress again the extensive inquiries recently made by the Native Employment Board, representing indigenous as well as expatriate workers, from which would emerge wage scales reflecting the most informed opinion in the Territory. He pointed out that almost all the representatives had referred to the minimum wage, and usually to the cash component only, ignoring the fact that wages ranged from that minimum to earnings comparable to those of expatriate workers in the same field. The Administering Authority was well aware that the whole labour situation was in a state of flux and it was endeavouring to ensure an orderly and proper development at all points.

12. The representative of the United Arab Republic had referred to the necessity for completing the penetration of the hinterland in a peaceful and orderly manner. The Administering Authority would be the last to deny that necessity and it was in an attempt to round out the picture that he would refer to the whole complex of problems involved in the opening of those areas. Penetration, exploration and initial contact, though most arduous and dangerous as well as most rewarding to the individuals concerned, were simple operations compared with what inevitably followed: the rapid development of the whole fabric of modern civilization. Thus the greater the detailed knowledge of the Territory which the Administering Authority developed, the greater the burden it must carry as a result of that knowledge.

13. The representative of the United Arab Republic had referred to the activities of the Christian missions. As he had already informed the Council, the Administering Authority was keeping a close watch on the effects of mission activities. At the same time, from the point of view of the ideals accepted by the Administering Authority, the matter was bound up with the concept of individual freedom of conscience and action. Furthermore, from the stresses and strains which must develop from contact between representatives of one of the most advanced civilizations in the world and representatives of a primitive culture, there developed a cultural and spiritual vacuum which the work of the Christian missions could do much to fill, not in any narrow sectarian sense but by bringing an understanding of the fundamentals of one of the great religious philosophies of the world.

14. The Indian representative had suggested that the Administration had transferred to the missions certain of its educational responsibilities. He would point out that the metropolitan educational system was based on State-controlled education; hence there would certainly be no abrogation of governmental responsibility in that field in New Guinea. Nevertheless, the situation there necessitated an alliance of Administration and mission efforts with the object of promoting the most rapid educational advancement of the indigenous

people. The Administration had recognized the assistance which the missions could give and was prepared to enlist it for what it considered to be the benefit of the indigenous people in a way that it would not contemplate in Australia itself.

15. With reference to the Indian representative's remarks on the subject of malaria, he pointed out that that disease had been one of the greatest scourges of the world since the beginning of recorded history and still remained one of the world's greatest single health problems. In that respect the Administration was facing a gigantic task which many other countries, assisted by the World Health Organization, were tackling in many parts of the world. Australia had done great pioneering work in research and practice in connexion with malaria and he hoped that its efforts would be seen in perspective not only now but in the future.

16. On the subject of political development, the representative of France had suggested that undue emphasis should not be given to political advancement at the expense of social, technical and general advancement. The Australian delegation recognized the danger of the illusion that if a man was given a vote it did not matter if he lost everything else. At the same time, the Administering Authority must have a proper concern for political advancement and it was most anxious that as early as possible part of that advancement should be through the exercise of universal adult franchise. For the time being, the people of the Territory were concerned more vitally with the immediate matters of health, education and economic progress. Nevertheless, the Administration was alert to detect, interpret and satisfy an awakening need in the political as in all other fields. Thus it was vigorously addressing itself to the development of means to bring its officers ever more closely into contact with the people themselves. It was laying stress on the need for fluency in indigenous languages, it was studying details of communication media to make possible a widespread development of exchanges of information and ideas, and it was deliberately seeking knowledge of all the means by which the people might become more vocal. As had been recognized in the Council, an important contribution to that end had been the convening of the first of what would be a series of increasingly large and representative conferences of local government councils.

17. In connexion with the promotion of local government councils, he would again sound a note of warning with regard to the necessity for preparing peoples and areas for local government. That was a complicated activity even in an advanced society; in New Guinea it had little to aid it through any well-defined system of established leadership. Thus in every case there must be a long period of examination, explanation and education before a council could even begin to take form. The development of the council system depended, among many other factors, on an understanding of a monetary system, economic assessments and the proper use of public monies. To many New Guinea indigenous societies those were new concepts which must be painstakingly learnt, retained and applied, and that process must take place against a recent background of complete ignorance of even the simplest concepts of reading and writing.

18. It was the considered view of the Australian Government that the best foundation for political

advancement of the indigenous people was through local government. The traditional village system had made it necessary and proper to work at the fundamental level through the villages. That policy had proved itself; increasing and significant numbers of people were going annually to the polls and had become accustomed to the democratic process of electing their own representatives to manage their own affairs. Eventually, as a result of that system, responsible, well-informed and experienced people would go about the great tasks of government in the most responsible fashion, thus avoiding the chaos which could result from the assumption of full governmental responsibilities by a people unprepared for the heavy burdens of government and ill-equipped to assess the results of their actions. In that connexion, he could add nothing to what he had already said about Legislative Council reform. The Administering Authority was aware of the need and of its responsibilities and would be informed of what had been said during the debate. The future of the Legislative Council was receiving close attention in circumstances of which the Trusteeship Council was aware.

19. In the final analysis political and any other form of advancement depended upon education. The Council had been informed of the Administration's planning and progress in that field but it should also be constantly aware of the extraordinary difficulties. Educational desires, practices and forms must be framed and fostered after deliberate, careful and patient work based upon the most elementary beginnings. A scientific observer well versed in New Guinea affairs had stated that the language problem alone would take many years to solve. The educational problem could not be solved, nor could much advance be made towards its solution, without a sufficient supply of trained teachers. In the circumstances there must be teachers from among the indigenous peoples themselves, for in view of the general teacher shortage it was impossible to provide enough teachers from outside to meet the needs of New Guinea; moreover, only the people themselves could guide the young ones along the difficult paths which they must follow in the name of education. First, however, the teachers themselves must be provided with a sufficient education, and that involved the problem of teacher-training.

20. He had not sought to prove a point or make a case; proof might be found in the detailed information placed before the Council by the Administering Authority. His purpose was rather to indicate to the Council the Administering Authority's appreciation of the importance of the whole problem. He had dealt with certain matters which had appeared to be of particular interest to the Council and had indicated a few points of view which he considered should be appreciated. He asked only that the Council should recognize the experience and the idealistic purposes of the Administering Authority, just as that Authority gave consideration and respect to the Council and the purposes for which it had been established. Both were working towards the same great end; the inevitable differences regarded only the means.

21. Mr. OBEREMKO (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that the special representative's implication that only the USSR delegation had offered serious criticism of the Administering Authority was not in accordance with the facts. Indeed, the Administering Authority was being subjected to an increasing amount

of criticism from more and more delegations and the representatives of all the non-administering members had expressed concern at the very slow rate of development in the Territory. The special representative had remarked that the USSR delegation had been unable to find anything praiseworthy in the extensive information on the Territory which had been put before the Council. The fact was that his delegation had based itself not only on the material provided by the Administering Authority but also on supplementary information to be found in petitions, press reports, etc. He was sure that if the Council as a whole had been given fuller information reflecting the true state of affairs in the Territory severer criticism would have been expressed by a greater number of speakers. His own delegation had been critical not for the sake of criticizing but because it wanted to see unsatisfactory conditions remedied. It was ready to acknowledge that there were individuals in the Territory, such as Australian teachers and doctors, who were honestly striving to carry out their tasks to the best of their ability. It was not their efforts that he was criticizing but the fact that, owing to the Administering Authority's policies, there were far too few such persons in the Territory giving their services for the advancement of the people. Moreover the Administering Authority did not take the necessary measures to train indigenous personnel.

22. The special representative had said that there was a body of law which protected the rights and persons of the indigenous inhabitants with a compassion and an understanding which the Administering Authority did not feel called upon to exercise in the case of its own nationals. That statement was refuted by the facts of the case dealt with in document T/PET.8/14, in which the sentence imposed on an Australian farmer for killing an indigenous inhabitant had consisted of a fine amounting to £150. Yet when indigenous inhabitants were convicted of murder the law was applied to them in all its severity. That could be seen from the reply given by the Minister for Territories to a question asked by a member of the House of Representatives, as reported in the *South Pacific Post*: the reply showed that in no case had an indigenous inhabitant convicted of murder been sentenced merely to a fine but that most had been sentenced to imprisonment with hard labour and at least one had been executed. Thus it was obvious that the laws were not applied equitably to indigenous inhabitants on the one hand and white settlers on the other.

23. The special representative had questioned his delegation's opinion that the indigenous inhabitants were discontented with their lot but he had offered no evidence to the contrary. It was interesting to note that even European members of the Legislative Council had expressed dissatisfaction with the present state of affairs in the Territory. He cited a statement made by one such member drawing an unfavourable comparison between the achievements of the Administering Authority and those of the German Administration prior to 1914. Another member had called for a statement by the Cabinet concerning future policy with regard to the Territory and had noted that the indigenous inhabitants had doubts about their future. If representatives of the sector of the population which was most favoured expressed dissatisfaction with the Administration's policies, it was difficult to believe that the indigenous inhabitants were content. When his delegation had referred to the fact that plantation workers earned only £1.8.0 a month the special repre-

sentative had replied that that was the minimum wage and that other workers earned considerably more. The important point was, however, that the plantation workers constituted the largest single working group in the Territory, accounting for nearly half the total number of wage labourers. The Administering Authority emphasized that employers were supposed to provide their workers with food, clothing and other necessities but there had been cases in which workers had had to strike because they were not receiving them. Even when they were provided with clothing for themselves it must be asked how they could clothe their children, to say nothing of feeding them adequately, on the minimum wage which plantation workers were paid.

24. In the political field the Administering Authority had taken no steps that might warrant commendation by the Council. Indeed, it had done nothing so far to implement the recommendation made by the Council at its twenty-second session that the representation of the indigenous inhabitants in the Legislative Council should be increased.

25. As far as education was concerned, it was not enough to say that whereas formerly there had been no educational facilities whatsoever there were now a few schools. The Administering Authority itself had repeatedly stated that all the children in the Territory should have access to primary education, yet it had failed to build enough schools to make it possible to reach that goal. The situation with regard to secondary education was, of course, considerably worse; there was only one secondary school in the Territory and the number of children now enrolled in it was less than half the number given in the annual report for the previous year. The number of indigenous inhabitants receiving scholarships to Australian schools had increased by only one a year since 1957. Those figures hardly attested to notable advances in the educational field. If the Administering Authority could report to the next session of the Council that it had built at least a hundred new primary schools and ten secondary schools his delegation would be the first to congratulate it on that achievement.

26. Australia had been administering New Guinea for nearly half a century. If it still had reason to speak of the primitive condition of the population it was only its own inefficient administration and its own policy that was to blame.

27. Mr. HOOD (Australia), replying to the representative of the USSR, pointed out that one of the matters dealt with by that representative, namely the administration of justice in the Territory, had come before the Standing Committee on Petitions and would be the subject of a report from that Committee to the Council. The Council should not anticipate the contents of the Committee's report or its own consideration of that report.

28. He would only add that the Administering Authority did not propose to enter into a dispute with the Council or with any member of it regarding the administration of the Trust Territory of New Guinea. The Australian delegation was called upon to provide information to the Council about the administration of the Territory. It had done so, and opinions on the subject could be expressed in the proper place, i.e. in the Drafting Committee on New Guinea, and in accordance with the proper procedure.

29. Mr. JONES (Special Representative) felt that a few of the remarks made by the USSR representative needed correction. In speaking of the Sear case that representative had quoted other cases which had involved murder and wilful murder. The Sear case had not been one of murder; it had been manslaughter. There had been four cases in the Territory in which indigenous inhabitants had been charged with manslaughter and had received no punishment whatsoever, whereas Mr. Sear had been fined £150. That had been the only case during the year in which a European had assaulted an indigenous inhabitant. The case and the relevant information had been placed before the Standing Committee on Petitions and he was confident that the Committee was satisfied that the law applied equally to people of all races.

30. In quoting the remarks made by two members of the Legislative Council, the USSR representative had spoken as if what they had said was absolute fact and could be accepted in place of the Administration's statements on the progress made in the Territory. The members in question were the two who had stood for election to the Legislative Council on the promise of resigning immediately after their election, in protest against the income tax, which in fact they had done after making the speeches which the USSR representative had quoted. Their remarks should not be taken out of context; at least half a dozen other non-official members had spoken in glowing terms of the progress made.

31. The USSR representative had asked how the village labourers could live on one shilling a day; they could live on it very easily since that sum was merely the cash component of their wage, everything else being provided free. When a wife and children accompanied the worker to his place of employment, they too received free accommodation, food and clothing.

32. In the political field, the USSR representative had confined his remarks to the Legislative Council. Yet the Australian delegation had made it quite clear that the main progress made in that field had been at the local government council level, where rapid strides had been made and that the Administering Authority was contemplating an increase in the number of indigenous members on the Legislative Council.

APPOINTMENT OF THE DRAFTING COMMITTEE ON NEW GUINEA

33. The PRESIDENT suggested that the Drafting Committee on New Guinea should consist of the representatives of Belgium, India, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the United Kingdom.

It was so decided.

Mr. Jones, special representative of the Administering Authority for the Trust Territory of New Guinea, withdrew.

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

- (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/1539, T/1531)

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

REQUEST FOR A HEARING (T/1531) (continued)

34. Mr. COTTRELL (Secretary of the Council) read out the following draft reply to the petitioners, prepared by the Secretariat in accordance with the views expressed in the Council at the previous meeting:

"Council willing hear your views but wishes you fully understand that plebiscite questions were decided by General Assembly and Council constitutionally unable to change them. Reply urgently whether coming."

35. Mr. VELLODI (India) said that the words "but wishes you fully understand that" seemed to give the impression that the Council was reluctant to hear the petitioners. He therefore proposed that that part of the reply should be amended to read: "Council willing hear your views. As you would be aware, however, plebiscite questions ...".

36. The PRESIDENT said that, if there were no objections, he would consider the amendment adopted and the cable would be sent to the petitioners.

It was so decided.

At the invitation of the President, Mr. Field and Alhaji Ali Akilu, special representative of the Administering Authority for the Trust Territory of the Cameroons under United Kingdom administration, took places at the Council table.

QUESTIONS CONCERNING THE TRUST TERRITORY AND REPLIES OF THE REPRESENTATIVE AND SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE OF THE ADMINISTERING AUTHORITY (concluded)

Economic, social and educational advancement (concluded)

37. Mr. OBEREMKO (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics), referring to paragraph 245 of the annual report ^{1/}, asked whether the institution of an independent budget for the Southern Cameroons had proved satisfactory and whether the financial position of the Southern Cameroons had improved as a result.

38. Mr. FIELD (Special Representative) said that when a separate Government had been set up in the Southern Cameroons in 1954 it had been necessary that it should have its own budget. Whether it had been a fiscal advantage to the Southern Cameroons was a matter for speculation, but it had certainly not been to the Territory's disadvantage, for its revenue, which had amounted to just over £500,000 in 1954, was at present about £2 million.

39. Mr. OBEREMKO (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) asked how much financial assistance had been provided direct from the Administering Authority throughout the trusteeship period and whether the funds which had been allocated to the Territory from

the Colonial Development and Welfare Fund would be made available to the Southern Cameroons if the population opted for union with the Republic of Cameroun.

40. Mr. FIELD (Special Representative) said that he had no figures of what the United Kingdom had spent in the Southern Cameroons since 1916, when it had first assumed responsibility in the Territory. Since the Southern Cameroons had not been a separate entity, any assistance would have been given through the Government of Nigeria. Since the inception of the Colonial Development and Welfare Fund a total of just over £2 million had been made available to the Southern Cameroons for schemes under its direct responsibility.

41. If the Southern Cameroons decided to join the Republic of Cameroun, it would probably cease to qualify for grants under the Colonial Development and Welfare Act. The £3 million already invested by the Colonial Development Corporation was not, of course, dependent on the future of the Territory.

42. Mr. OBEREMKO (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) asked what the Administering Authority had done to raise the status of women in the Territory and whether women were playing a significant part in all fields of endeavour.

43. Mr. FIELD (Special Representative) said that, as far as the Southern Cameroons was concerned, more educational facilities, including a secondary school, had been provided for women. Women were now taking higher education and were occupying positions in Government service and in the hospital and social welfare services; they also voted in the elections for the local legislature and could stand for election to it. They were not subject to any disabilities to which men were not subject.

44. Alhaji Ali AKILU (Special Representative) said that, in the Northern Cameroons, there were no legal restrictions on women and they participated fully in all the activities of the community. Girls attended school and were free to engage in occupations according to their qualifications.

45. Mr. OBEREMKO (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) asked why, if that was so, women in the Northern Cameroons had not been granted the right to vote.

46. Alhaji Ali AKILU (Special Representative) said that the people of the Northern Cameroons did not want women to be given electoral rights. It should be remembered that electoral rights had only recently been granted to men in the area.

47. Mr. OBEREMKO (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that it had been the constant hope of his delegation that the Administering Authority would introduce universal suffrage into the Northern Cameroons. He was confident that that hope would soon be fulfilled, if not by the Administering Authority, then by the Government of whichever newly independent State the Territory elected to join.

48. He would like to know how many physicians were practising in the North and how many in the South of the Territory; how many of them were Europeans and how many indigenous inhabitants; how many general hospitals, maternity hospitals and dispensaries there were in the South and in the North; how many secondary schools there were and how many indigenous inhabitants, particularly in the North, had completed higher education.

^{1/} 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 1958, Colonial No. 341 (London, Her Majesty's Stationery Office, 1959). Transmitted to members of the Trusteeship Council by a note of the Secretary-General (T/1494).

49. Sir Andrew COHEN (United Kingdom) said that his delegation would provide that information as soon as possible.

50. Mr. VELLODI (India), recalling that his delegation had been promised information on the question of what percentage of the population of the Northern Cameroons was Moslem, asked Alhaji Ali Akilu if he could give the Council the approximate percentage?

51. Alhaji Ali AKILU (Special Representative) said that the religious composition of the population varied from area to area. In Dikwa there would perhaps be a very small majority of Moslems; in the other parts of the Territory, the majority would be pagan. He would try to provide more specific information later.

The meeting rose at 4.35 p.m.