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EXAMINATION OF ANNUAL REPORTS:

CAMEROONS UNDER FRENCH ADMINISTRATION 1947

Report of the Drafting Committee on Annual Reports

Chairman: Mr. Lin Mousheng (China)

The Drafting Committee on Annual Reports recommends to the Council the adoption of the following passage for inclusion in the Report of the Council to the General Assembly covering its fourth and fifth sessions.

INTRODUCTION

The Report of the Government of France on the administration of the Cameroons under French administration for the year 1947 was received by the Secretary-General on 28 October 1948 and having been transmitted* to members of the Council on 12 November 1948 was placed on the agenda for the fourth session of the Council.

During the third meeting of that session, Mr. Watier, Administrateur des Colonies, who had been appointed as special representative of the Administering Authority, made an opening statement on conditions in the Territory. Mr. Watier subsequently submitted written answers** to written questions*** addressed to him by members of the Council on the Report and on the administration of the Territory. During the fourteenth, fifteenth and sixteenth meetings, the representative and the special representative of the Administering Authority answered supplementary oral questions of members of the Council.

During the twenty-sixth, twenty-seventh and twenty-eighth meetings, the Council held a general discussion with a view to formulating conclusions and recommendations relating to the report and to conditions

* Document T/219

** Document T/249

*** Document T/242

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in the Territory, and requested the Drafting Committee on Annual Reports to draft a report, in accordance with Rules 100 and 101 of its Rules of Procedure, for inclusion in the annual report of the Council to the General Assembly.

The draft prepared by the Drafting Committee was considered by the Council at its.....meeting on the.....

PART I

Review of conditions based on the Report of the Administering Authority and on statements made in the Council by the Special Representative and the Representative of France

1. GENERAL

Area, history, topography

The Cameroons under French administration lies on the West Coast of Africa slightly north of the equator. With an area of 432,000 square kilometres, it comprises the greater part of the former Kamerun protectorate, which was administered by Germany between 1884 and its occupation by French and United Kingdom military forces in 1916. Kamerun was divided, more or less according to the two spheres of military control, into two separate mandated territories, one under French and the other under United Kingdom administration, and this division is maintained under the International Trusteeship System.

The southern portion of the Territory is an equatorial forest zone. The west is mountainous and relatively cool, and the north is a dry savannah region.

Population

The indigenous population is estimated at about 2,700,000, while Europeans number some 2,500, of whom 1,700 are French. The indigenous population consists of a great diversity of races, with different languages and customs; they vary from the Bantu tribes who occupy the forest areas in the south and have rudimentary social and political organizations, to Sudanese in the north who until recently lived under a feudalistic system. A sense of common interest and territorial unity has, however, begun to develop.

Capital and port

The capital of the Territory is Yaounde, and its principal deep water port is Douala.

2. POLITICAL ADVANCEMENT

Status of the Territory

In international law, the basis of administration of the Cameroons is the Trusteeship Agreement approved by the United Nations on 13 December 1946 and made part of French law by decree of 29 January 1948.

Since 1946, the Cameroons has occupied a place within the French Union, which consists of France, her overseas Departments and possessions, and certain associated units. It is designated an "Associated Territory". There is no law expressly providing for the incorporation of the Cameroons into the Union, but French legislation is applied to it under Article 4 of the Trusteeship Agreement.

The purposes for which the Administering Authority has brought the Territory into the French Union are (a) to give it the benefit of a regime at least as liberal as that applied in neighbouring non-self-governing territories; (b) to give its inhabitants a share in the making of the laws and regulations that govern them; and (c) to advance their political education and help disseminate the democratic principles set forth in the Charter of the United Nations.

The Territory is accordingly granted the right of representation in the organs of the French Union as a whole, in which legislative powers and right of political discussion are vested; it enjoys a system of suffrage intended eventually to be universal; it has an elected Representative Assembly empowered with financial authority and rights of decision or consultation on local administrative matters; and it has been accorded the rights and freedoms guaranteed by the French Constitution.

The status of the Territory differs from that of other territories in the French Union insofar as the Charter and the Trusteeship Agreement stipulate special administrative rules such as economic equality for all nationals of Members of the United Nations, etc. The Administering Authority regards the relationship of the Territory with the Union as being entirely without prejudice to its future status and that of its inhabitants, who will remain free to determine their status when their political maturity is sufficiently developed.

Representation of the Territory

The Cameroons elect three deputies to the French National Assembly, three representatives to the Council of the Republic, five to the Assembly of the French Union and two to the Economic Council. Four of these thirteen representatives are Europeans (two doctors, a former administrator and a trader) and the remainder are Africans (including a French-naturalized tribal chief, local officials, trade union secretaries and business

/employees).

employes). Two of the Cameroons representatives are members of the MRP party (Mouvement Républicain Populaire) and the others are socialists of the SFIO (Section Française de l'Internationale Ouvrière) or independents.

Status of the Inhabitants

Although the law establishing "citizenship of the French Union" has not been promulgated in the Territory, its inhabitants enjoy all the advantages granted to citizens of the Union.

They are, for instance, eligible for public offices without distinction as to origin, race or religion, and they enjoy the individual or collective exercise of the rights and liberties proclaimed in the Constitution of the French Union. By virtue of the status of the Territory as a Trust Territory they are exempted from conscription for military service.

Administrative Structure

The chief of the local administration is the Haut Commissaire de la République, who represents the French Government and is directly responsible to the Minister of Overseas Territories. He is assisted by an Administrative Council.

For administrative purposes the Territory is divided into fourteen regions each in charge of a chef de région who is responsible to the Haut Commissaire. Each region is further divided into areas under the control of chefs de subdivision who are responsible to the chef de région.

Representative Assembly

The elected Representative Assembly has an African majority. In association with the administration itself, it takes part in the exercise of the administrative and financial autonomy enjoyed by the Territory.

The Assembly has no power of initiating legislation or of discussing political matters. Laws are enacted by the organs of the French Union and applied to the Territory by special decrees. Consultation of the Assembly on local regulations in certain specified fields is required, however, and the territorial budget, which is submitted by the Haut Commissaire, requires the approval of the Assembly.

As an illustration of its functions, the Assembly has, since its establishment, discussed and adopted the 1947, 1948 and 1949 budgets; and it has discussed or given its opinion on all administrative measures affecting the Territory, notably an important reform in the grading of local officials, an increase in the rates of allowances, a reorganization of the educational services, and the granting of numerous scholarships.

The Assembly has a standing committee which meets once a week, and it has also established commissions on finance and the budget, public health, education and youth, economic affairs and other matters.

/Qualifications

Qualifications for election to the Assembly include the ability to read, write and speak French fluently. The present indigenous members, of whom there are twenty-four as against sixteen Europeans, represent the élite of the advanced section of the population. They include heads of communities, local officials, persons who have been active in trade unions and co-operative a priest and a teacher.

There are no political parties in the Assembly, all the proceedings being conducted solely from the point of view of local interest.

Method and Extent of Suffrage

Although the Administering Authority contemplates the eventual introduction of universal suffrage, the right to vote is at present limited in the case of the indigenous inhabitants, other than the small number of naturalized French persons, to notables, members for at least two years of trade unions and co-operatives, members of provident society councils, persons able to read French, chiefs, permanent employees and a number of other groups.

There are two electoral colleges, the first consisting mainly of French citizens, who enjoy universal suffrage. The establishment of a separate college for French citizens is designed to ensure for them a proportionately higher representation in recognition of their leading economic role in the Territory. The voters registered in the first college numbered 2,590 and elected the sixteen European members of the Representative Assembly in 1946. The number of persons eligible to vote in the second college is estimated at 450,000 to 500,000 out of a total adult population of 1,400,000; as a result of the novelty of suffrage, however, only 39,615 had registered in 1947. This college elected the twenty-four African members of the Assembly.

The two colleges also elect the Cameroons deputies to the French National Assembly on the same proportionate basis.

Municipal Government

The administration of the main centres of Yaounde and Douala is carried out by the respective chefs de région, who preside over and are assisted in each town by a Municipal Commission consisting of six appointed members, of whom two are required specifically to be indigenous notables who are French subjects. The commissions meet in ordinary sessions, which are not public, twice a year.

It is intended to transform these organs into free municipal commissions in which the indigenous inhabitants would have majority representation, and which would have greater powers.

Regional

Regional and Local Councils

On a local level, an advisory part is played in the administration by a number of indigenous councils (Conseils de notables). These councils have no organic connection with the Representative Assembly, and are essentially consultative to the local administrative heads.

In the past they have been composed, in addition to high administrative officers, of chiefs and other notables elected by chiefs. An experiment is being made however, in changing their composition to include representatives of economic groups, trade unions, co-operatives, and of all employers and wage earners.

Judicial System

For civil cases, there are two different judicial procedures:

- (i) Where all the interests involved are African, customary law is applied as far as possible. The tribunals concerned with these cases are the Customary Tribunals (for conciliation only; one in each subdivision); the Tribunals of the First Degree (one in each subdivision); and the Tribunals of the Second Degree (one in each region). Appeals for final decision are made to the Chambre d'Homologation of the Higher Tribunal of Appeals.
- (ii) In other cases, French law is applied. The tribunals concerned are justices with powers of summary jurisdiction; justices with extended powers; and one Tribunal of First Instance. Final decisions are given by the Higher Tribunal of Appeals or the Court of Cassation in Paris, according to the nature of the cases.

In penal cases, the French penal code now applies to all inhabitants of the Territory. The criminal courts are the same as those listed under (ii) above for civil cases involving French law, together with the Chambre des Mises en accusation of the Higher Tribunal of Appeals, and a Criminal Court. Final decisions are given, according to the nature of the cases, by the Higher Tribunal of Appeals or the Court of Cassation in Paris.

The customary and conciliation courts are composed exclusively of Africans, and one civil court of the first class is also presided over by an African. The Administration has attached Cameroonians of particular good character to local chiefs in order to give them training in presiding over courts. The customary courts have a president and at least two assessors.

The indigénat system which allowed the more senior administrative officers to sentence natives to fines and imprisonment for a specified number of offences, has been abolished in the Cameroons as in all Territories under French administration.

3. ECONOMIC ADVANCEMENT

Agriculture and Stock Breeding

Agriculture is the main occupation of the inhabitants of the Territory. Palm, cocoa, banana, and coffee are extensively cultivated in the southern lowlands. Cotton, sheanuts, beniseed, sesame, and peanuts are grown in the north. European plantations produce coffee, bananas, and rubber. Of the total area of 432,000 square kilometres, some 11,489 square kilometres, or 26 per cent, are under cultivation. This figure does not, however, take into account land lying fallow for several years between plantings under the prevailing indigenous method of cultivation. It also does not include palm plantations or pasture lands. It may be noted, further, that in some areas two crops are harvested each year from the same land.

The agricultural services include departments for scientific research, experiments, production and information, crop-grading, and centres for agricultural training. Two semi-official agricultural research institutes have been established, one of which deals with the cultivation of bananas, and the other controls the exploitation of wild palm and is responsible for the installation of oil presses.

Livestock production is concentrated in the northern section, which is free from the tsetse fly. The stock population includes over a million heads of cattle, pigs, sheep, and goats. There is a veterinary service, and two meat factories have been established in the Adamaoua region.

Land Tenure

The land policy of the Administration recognizes three distinct categories of land: (a) State land, held by title, which may be alienated by means of sale, lease, or concession; (b) land not exploited or occupied for ten years and not subject to title, which may be alienated by means of concession or lease after inquiry has established that alienation is not likely to prejudice the development of communities or individuals; and (c) vacant and ownerless land, which may be alienated by means of concession under a procedure varying according to whether the land is urban or rural. In all cases the concession is provisional at first. All provisional and final concessions are subject to an adjudication after a preliminary inquiry or consideration of appeals against the granting of such concessions. A general reform of the system of land tenure is now being studied by the French Parliament.

There is no land shortage in the Territory except in the subdivision of Kaele and Yagoua where the density of population is very high. The alien concessions of land include 750 rural plots, covering an area of 80,000 hectares, and 1,650 urban lots, comprising an area of 500 hectares. Concessions granted to indigenous inhabitants cover 7,500 hectares of rural

areas and 100 hectares of urban land. Most of the indigenous population, however, occupies its land without having applied for formal title.

Forests

Under local legislation an area of 860,000 hectares has been set aside as forest reserves. The Administering Authority is attempting to improve forest resources. Some 51,089 tons of various grades of timber valued at 189,150,000 francs was produced in the Territory.

Mines

The most important minerals worked in the Territory are gold, rutile and cassiterite. Gold mining was started in 1934, and in 1946 the total output was 371 kilogrammes 21 grammes. Rutile mining operations were begun in 1935, and in 1946 the total output was 1,260 tons. Cassiterite mining was begun in 1933 and the total output in 1946 was 160 tons. Other minerals found in the Territory are molybdenite, colombite, tantalite and wolfram. Mining dues and royalties include 200,000 francs for a prospecting permit; 5,000 francs for an exploitation permit; 10,000 francs for investigation and publication of a concession; 10 francs per hectare as a superficiary annual royalty. The full royalties vary, and are approximately 5 per cent ad valorem for gold, rutile and tin.

Under the Ten-Year Development Plan, a Bureau of Mines of Overseas France, a State corporation with legal personality and financially independent has been established. The Bureau is empowered to undertake every phase of mining operations, to acquire any prospecting or mining license and any mining concession, and to hold shares in any mining group, company, or syndicate. The Bureau's initial capital (30 millions) is underwritten by the Central Bank of Overseas France.

Industry

There are a number of processing plants, such as sawmills, soap factories, oilworks and industrial alcohol distilleries. A marked influx of capital is encouraging the establishment of new industries by private enterprise, including plants for the manufacture of groundnut and palm oils, breweries, tobacco and cigarette factories, plants for rotary-cut and sliced veneers, possibly a wood pulp plant, mineral waters, jam-making, preserved fruits, perfumes with an alcohol base, cotton spinning and weaving, and the tanning and processing of hides. The construction of the hydroelectric power plant at Edea will help the development of these new industries by supplying cheap power.

In another direction, by granting credits to indigenous agricultural co-operatives, the Administration is promoting the establishment of small industries for processing local raw materials - fermentation of cocoa, mechanical hulling of coffee beans and shelling of groundnuts, co-operative
/oil-works,

oil-works, and natural latex processing plants.

Commerce and Trade

External trade is largely in the hands of the local branches of French and British industrial and commercial corporations. They are subject to taxation in respect of operations actually effected in the Territory.

The Territory has an import and export control system. The total foreign trade of the Territory in 1946 was valued at 2,009,427,000 francs, which was made up of imports valued at 1,004,457,000 and exports at 1,004,970,000 francs. The principal imports in order of importance were cotton-piece goods, vehicles, spare parts, machinery, drinks, petroleum, tobacco, jute, and drugs. The chief exports were bananas, palm kernel, coffee, cocoa, rubber and timber.

In 1946 the United Kingdom provided 330.9 million francs worth of the imports, the United States 321.2 million and France 163 million francs. Exports went mainly to France and French possessions (672.2 million francs), the United States (86 million), Nigeria (28.5 million), and South Africa (10.3 million francs).

Internal trade consists of the wholesale distribution of imported goods by the large trading concerns, and retail trade in the remote parts of the country by small concerns or indigenous agents of the wholesale dealers.

Customs Union

A Customs Union was established between the Cameroons and French Equatorial Africa in 1941. A large part of the goods originating in or consigned to central and the northern part of French Equatorial Africa pass through the Port of Douala and across the Cameroons. By means of a customs union, it was possible to avoid duplicated customs formalities for goods entering and leaving the Cameroons, and both Territories were relieved of the need for maintaining a costly chain of customs stations on their long common frontier. The duties and taxes due to French Equatorial Africa were collected by the Cameroons customs service and refunded to the budget of French Equatorial Africa. It was recognized, however, that the establishment of common tariffs might have constituted an obstacle to the independence of their economic policies. In 1948 the union was replaced by a simple customs convention providing more freedom for each territory.

Provident Societies and Co-operatives

There are fourteen indigenous provident societies, which are equivalent to agricultural co-operatives, forty-four indigenous co-operative societies for the production, consumption and exportation of agricultural commodities, and forty-seven indigenous agricultural unions. Three groups of European co-operative societies produce coffee, and a fourth produces and exports bananas.

Public Finance: Taxation

The budget is drawn up by the Finance Department on the basis of estimates received from the administrative and technical departments, and then submitted to the Representative Assembly for discussion and vote.

The latest and most complete figures available of actual receipts and expenditures are those of 1944. The total revenue for that year amounted to 345,942,418 francs, and included extraordinary revenue of 66,505,780 francs. The principal sources of revenue are direct taxes, indirect taxes, revenue from Government enterprises and fees and licenses.

Direct taxes, which are imposed without distinction of race and nationality, include a personal tax, the rate of which varies from one area to another. It is levied on male persons of sixteen years of age or over whose income is below the minimum at which assessment for scheduled taxes begins. The Administering Authority regards the personal tax as being of questionable financial justice, being fixed on the basis of the lowest incomes; but the absence of trained controllers, assessors and collectors has so far prevented the general introduction of income tax.

Total expenditure in 1944 amounted to 288,677,061 francs and included public debt payments (3,443,904 francs), expenditure on personnel (99,834,535 francs), expenditure on material and labour (79,864,930 francs), public works (21,125,308 francs), miscellaneous expenditure (17,125,308), and extraordinary expenditure (66,505,780 francs).

Development Plan

A ten-year economic and social development plan has been formulated for the Territory, and it is to be financed out of contributions from Metropolitan France and advances re-payable at two per cent from the Central Fund for Overseas France.

The total expected investments in the Cameroons for the period 1946-1956 is 25 thousand million francs. Up to November 1948, 1,514.5 million francs had been invested in the Territory, 810 million of which constitute the free grant from Metropolitan France and 704.5 million the advances from the Central Fund.

The economic plan provides allocations for agricultural development, livestock improvement, mines, and the extension of transport and communication facilities. In the social field, education, water supply, and public health services receive grants for new installations and extension of facilities.

4. SOCIAL ADVANCEMENT

Status of Women

In general, local custom does not accord women an independent legal status, although it grants them the right to own personal property. The indigenous male inhabitants, who hold a dominant position in society, have been reluctant to encourage any rapid change in the status of women. The present small number of educated women are engaged as nurses, midwives, teachers and seamstresses.

Human Rights

The French Constitution of 1946 guarantees basic human rights to all sections of the population and ensures full freedom of thought and conscience and free exercise of worship and instruction.

Seven newspapers and three bi-monthly bulletins (edited by missions) circulate in the Territory. The only grounds on which a publication or periodical could be prohibited by the High Commissioner would be that it constituted a threat to decency or public order. There has been no such prohibition for several years.

Five political parties play a role in local politics but party activity has not yet reached the mass of the population. Apart from the local branches of the major parties of France (Mouvement Républicain Populaire; Section Française de l'Internationale Ouvrière; Rassemblement du Peuple Français), the purely local parties are considered at present to be extremely unstable and to centre around a few ambitious persons rather than around major political principles.

Freedom from arbitrary arrests and the protection of the interest of arrested persons are guaranteed under the law. Slavery is illegal, but there is some evidence of the continuance of some form of domestic slavery in the northern section of the Territory.

Social Security and Welfare

In 1947 a Director of Social and Cultural Affairs was appointed to co-ordinate the social welfare aspects of the work of various departments and to study the welfare needs of the Territory.

Employees of the Administration (European and African personnel) are entitled to the benefits of a pension system, and some commercial firms have established their own pension funds for their personnel.

African ex-servicemen have received 15,000,000 francs in grants and 10,000,000 francs in loans. A loan fund of 15,000,000 francs has been made available to European ex-servicemen. Ex-servicemen have been accorded special employment facilities and do not appear to constitute any problem.

Labour

The man-hours output of the local labour force is low and the incidence of absenteeism is considered very high. There is a general shortage of skilled workers in the Territory. The needs of the Africans are said to be few, and in general they are said not to like work.

Minimum wage rates are related to the local cost of living indices, but in areas where the demand is great actual wages may be as much as twice the basic rate. The minimum rates have increased from 6-10 francs a day in 1946 to 16-47 francs a day in 1948 for unskilled labour; but at Douala, for instance, where the minimum is 45 francs, the actual average is 75 francs.

Most of the local skilled workers are employed by the Administration, private concerns and the military and mission workshops. Centres for the training of artisans have been established at Douala and Ebolowa. No labour is recruited.

The principle of equal pay for equal work is recognized and legally enforced. The maximum hours of work are fixed by law at nine a day for private concerns and eight for employees of the Administration. In practice, most of the plantation employees observe a seven hour day.

Since 1944 a Labour Inspectorate has been established to handle all issues connected with labour. The Labour Inspector General has two assistants and works in co-operation with the regional administrative officers. A new labour code embracing all the principles recognized by the International Labour Organisation is being prepared to be applied in all territories of the French Union.

The organization of Trade Unions is regulated by the decree of 7 August 1944. The Trade Union movement is still in its formative stage. Some of its leaders are affiliated to the two major French trade union organizations.

Medical Services

In 1947 the personnel of the medical services included, thirty-eight European and fifty-two African doctors, four European and one African pharmacist, two European dentists, seven European and one African midwife, eighteen European and 810 African male and female nurses, fifteen European and seven African sanitary assistants. In addition, there were fifteen European doctors, four pharmacists and three midwives outside the government service.

The Territory had twenty-nine hospitals, with beds for 115 Europeans and 3,726 Africans, eighteen medical centres, eighty-three dispensaries, fifty-four consultation centres, thirty-three leper colonies, two mental hospitals, twelve sleeping sickness centres, and three day nurseries.

/The hospitals

The hospitals in the Territory treated 29,793 in-patients and 324,608 out-patients in 1946. The medical centres treated 5,834 in-patients and 254,238 out-patients during the same period, and the dispensaries treated 446,262 out-patients.

Endemic illnesses and social diseases, particularly venereal disease, constitute the major public health problem. They are an infinitely greater cause of morbidity and depopulation than are epidemics.

Prisons and Crimes

The prison population in 1947 was 6,721. All the prisoners receive standard rations, differing in kind but not in calory content as between Europeans and Africans. Juvenile delinquents are sent to a penal colony at Saa where they receive some technical training, or are detained in separate sections of ordinary prisons.

5. EDUCATIONAL ADVANCEMENT

General

The educational system includes (a) primary and secondary schools whose programme of work is the same as that of similar institutions in France, (b) upper primary schools, which train teachers, and (c) professional schools which follow programmes adapted to the needs of the country.

In addition to these, the Catholic and Protestant missions have one-class schools where the children learn to read in the vernacular, and receive the rudiments of religious education. Permission for the establishment of a private school is granted by the High Commissioner on condition that: (1) language of instruction is French, (2) the programme of work is based on the methods followed by the Government schools, and (3) the teachers and especially the directors of the schools hold a certificate recognized by the Administration.

French has been adopted officially as the language of instruction because none of the many local dialects are considered sufficiently universal or well-developed.

The Department of Education consists of a senior officer who holds the title of Secretary of the Department and a number of inspectors of primary schools, technical schools, sports and popular education.

The Territory is divided into thirteen educational sections, corresponding to the administrative regions. The head of each section directs the work of African teachers and co-ordinates cultural activities in the region. He is normally the director of the primary school of the administrative headquarters.

/Schools,

Schools, Pupils, Teachers

In 1947 there were 1,339 private and public primary schools in the Territory. The total number of pupils enrolled was 115,115, of whom approximately 16,799 were girls, and 95,612 were in private schools. In addition to these, there were three superior primary schools with 231 pupils (all African), seven secondary schools with 926 pupils (146 Europeans) and four technical schools with 280 pupils (two Europeans).

The percentage of children who actually attended school compared to the total number of children of school age was approximately 39 per cent.

Teachers in private schools numbered 2,017, of whom 141 were Europeans and 1,123 were Africans. Teachers in public schools numbered eighty-two Europeans and 325 Africans.

Budget Allocations

Since 1938 the percentage of the expenditure allocated for education to the total budget has been as follows:

<u>1938</u>	<u>1940</u>	<u>1942</u>	<u>1944</u>	<u>1946</u>	<u>1947</u>	<u>1948</u>
3.8%	2.5%	3%	4.4%	6.2%	6.4%	9%

These figures refer only to the ordinary budget. If the credits granted under the ten-year plan are added, the total expenditure on education is approximately 20 per cent.

Textbooks

Textbooks giving special attention to the geography and history of the Cameroons and intended for use in elementary schools are at present being prepared by teachers with an extensive knowledge of the country. A Bureau of Pedagogical Studies under the Department of Education has been established, the principal task of which will be to adapt curricula, textbooks and teaching methods to local needs and to the general evolution of the Cameroons.

Higher Education

There is no institution of higher education in the Territory, but the Medical School at Dakar accepts students from the Cameroons. There is also a scholarship system in the Territory which enables pupils of both sexes to study in France. Under this scheme 150 Cameroons students are now studying in France.

Development Plans

Under a ten-year educational development scheme, it is planned to double the number of secondary schools, establish seven urban or regional schools in the south, twenty-seven rural schools in the north, a modern college and a technical training centre in the north, a technical college and a training centre in the south, and to extend various existing schools. The expansion of secondary education facilities is expected to meet the needs of the Territory for a considerable time to come; it is not desired to create more highly educated persons than the Territory can absorb.

PART II

Observations of Members of the Council

I. GENERAL

General Conditions

The representative of the United Kingdom expressed confidence that, under the wise guidance of the devoted band of French officials, the progress already achieved in the Territory would continue.

The representative of Iraq stated that credit was due to the Administering Authority for its remarkable efforts in the Trust Territory, and for the diligence with which it undertook its tasks.

II. POLITICAL ADVANCEMENT

General

The representative of Belgium considered that the Council would be unanimous in paying tribute to the generous spirit which governed the bold political reforms which had been carried out by France and which had given the inhabitants a very large share in the administration of their affairs.

The representatives of Costa Rica praised the activities revealed in the report in the field of political development.

The representative of China expressed the opinion that the Territory had made great strides in political advancement in recent years. In general, the Territory was making rapid progress towards self-government and the liberal policy of the Administering Authority in promoting political advancement was to be commended highly.

The representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics stated that the Administering Authority was carrying out a policy directed towards strengthening the colonial regime, and holding the Trust Territory back from its development towards self-government or independence.

The Council should recommend to the Administering Authority that it carry out measures which would lead to the most expeditious and most complete implementation of the basic objectives of the Trusteeship System.

Development of National Consciousness

The representative of China noted that in spite of the artificiality of the boundaries and the heterogeneity of the inhabitants, it had been stated that a territorial consciousness was being developed through administration and education, development of communications, and common political activities. The Council would be very much interested to watch this process, since the development of a territorial consciousness, a feeling of community, and a common symbol of loyalty or identification was

/the ultimate

the ultimate determination of a distinct political entity.

Relationship with French Union

(i) Question of Sovereignty

The representative of the Philippines suggested that the Council would have to determine whether, in actual practice, sovereignty over the Trust Territory, as distinguished from mere administrative authority, rested in the French Union, in view of the fact that any change in the Constitution to allow the Territory to enjoy the power of legislation seemed to require the approval of the French people as a whole.

The representative of China, stated that, since the Constitution and law of the French Union did not appear to make any distinction between the status of overseas territories and that of the Trust Territories, it was not clear where French sovereignty began and where it ended.

(ii) Status of the Territory: Freedom of Political Development

The representative of the United States of America welcomed the important assurance given by the special representative that the inhabitants had the right eventually to determine for themselves whether they should remain in the French Union or assume a status of independence outside the union. The Council might also note the statement of the representative of France that "eventually there will be full freedom, and the population will vote the laws applying to the Territory".

The representative of China stated that, although the beneficial and liberalizing effects of the French Union upon the peoples of the Overseas Departments and Territories could not be questioned, some questions did arise in connection with the Trust Territories. In posing a list of such questions, he stated that the Council should receive some kind of legal clarification or formal commitment from the Administering Authority as to the future status of the Trust Territories and their freedom of separate evolution.

The representative of China stated that it was incumbent upon the Trusteeship Council to see that the special status of the Trust Territories was preserved, that each Trust Territory should have its own distinctive existence and its own free evolution, and that the advancement of each Territory should be as little conditioned by and dependent upon the advancement of other non-self-governing territories as possible.

The representative of the Philippines proposed that, in spite of the enlightened policy reflected in the right of representation granted to the indigenous inhabitants, the Council should express some concern as to the effects of the inclusion of the Trust Territories in the French Union.

/The Council

The Council might take note of the fact that although the Territories had been brought into the French Union on a basis of equality with territories under French sovereignty, and might derive certain immediate advantages from this fact, some doubt might well arise as to whether this association would permit their unrestricted evolution in the spirit of the Charter.

The Council might note in particular that the constitution of the French Union did not appear to provide for the development of full autonomy on the part of the Trust Territories, since the power of legislation was reserved to the organs of the French Union as a whole. The Council might note that any transfer or delegation of this power of legislation to the Trust Territories would seem to require a fundamental change in the constitution, and that such a change in turn would seem to necessitate the approval of the French people as a whole.

The Council might thus observe that the determination of the form of government or the political association subsequently to be enjoyed by the inhabitants of the Trust Territories appeared to rest with the people of the French Union as a whole, rather than with the freely expressed wishes of the indigenous inhabitants of the Trust Territories themselves, as envisaged in the Charter.

The representative considered that the Trusteeship Council should express the opinion that since the two Trust Territories were large enough in size, population, and economic resources, to be capable of attaining a considerable degree of self-sufficiency, their political development should also be planned on a basis of self-sufficiency and should not be made dependent on the destiny of other Territories under actual French sovereignty.

In this respect, the Council might take the view that it might be more consistent with the principles of the international trusteeship system for the Administering Authority to adopt separate and special constitutional measures for these two Trust Territories, designed to create for them, at the earliest possible time, complete political autonomy, legislative and administrative.

The representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, while stating that he would give his full views when the special questions of administrative union came before the Council, declared that the inclusion of the Trust Territory in the French Union was in contradiction to the provisions of the Charter for the development of the Trust Territories towards self-government or independence.

(iii) Status of the Inhabitants

The representative of China drew the attention of the Council, for purposes of study, to the fact that although there was a legal distinction
/between

between "citizens of the French Union" and "persons under French Trusteeship administration", this distinction seemed to be diminished by the fact that "persons under French Trusteeship administration" might be members of the high organs of the French Union.

Representative Assembly

(i) General: Powers

The representative of the United States of America commended the Administering Authority for the establishment of an entirely elective Representative Assembly, which was a distinct advance on those other Trust Territories with which the Council had been concerned.

The representative of China observed that although the Assembly had been given power to decide a considerable number of matters, including the initiation of expenditures, all these powers related to matters of purely local concern. The Assembly had no power to initiate legislation, which was the prerogative of the French National Assembly.

The representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics stated that the members of the Assembly had no real powers and simply constituted a consultative organ for the High Commissioner. They could give advice when so requested, but their opinions had no obligatory force, and all rules and regulations were issued by the High Commissioner on his own initiative. Consultation of the Assembly was provided for only on questions of secondary importance. The French officials actually enjoyed unlimited rights.

(ii) Suffrage

The representative of the United States of America urged the Administering Authority to increase its efforts to induce a larger number of the 500,000 qualified voters to register and exercise their right to vote.

The representative of the Philippines proposed that the Council invite the Administering Authority to study the possibility of formulating and adopting a definite programme designed to extend the right to vote on a universal basis. The Council might suggest, as a means of accelerating political education in this respect, that universal suffrage should be applied in the first instance to the election in the more advanced areas of the proposed new forms of regional councils and municipal commissions.

The representative of China, while welcoming the establishment of suffrage as a first step towards self-government, observed that the electorate is still limited in scope, in that out of a total population of 2,800,000, of whom about 1,400,000 were estimated to be twenty-one years of age or more, the number of voters in the first elections was only 42,000. He expressed the hope that in due course the principle of universal suffrage might be universally applied.

/((iii) Two-college

(iii) Two-college System

The representative of the Philippines stated that the Council might note that a distinction was made in the suffrage system, and therefore in the persons elected, through the maintenance of two electoral colleges, divided broadly between French citizens on the one hand and indigenous inhabitants on the other. The Council might express the opinion that the removal of any such distinction between groups of individuals was essential to the development of a fully democratic system of suffrage, and recommend that the Administering Authority take progressive steps in that direction.

The representative of China also expressed the hope that, in due course, the two colleges might be unified.

The representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics observed that the sixteen members of the Assembly elected by French citizens comprised one representative for 162 French members of the population, while the twenty-four members elected by a privileged upper crust of the indigenous population comprised one representative for 112,500 inhabitants. Only 1.5 per cent of the indigenous population participated in the election to what was in any case a powerless body. The Administering Authority had thus taken special measures to ensure a position of mastery for French citizens and by the practice of racial discrimination, deprived the great mass of the population of all political rights.

(iv) Language Requirement for Office

The representative of Iraq expressed the belief that the enforcement of a language entirely foreign to peoples under trusteeship, and its establishment as a condition of holding of office, and even of eligibility to vote, would jeopardize the eventual decision of the inhabitants as to their political status.

The representative of France pointed out that as far as eligibility to vote was concerned, knowledge of French was by no means a universal condition. The twelve most important categories of voters were not based on a knowledge of the language, which simply formed a thirteenth category.

Native Administration

(i) Regional Councils

The representative of China noted that the Administering Authority was planning to enlarge the membership of local and regional councils so as to include not only chiefs and notables but also representatives of trade unions, co-operatives and other economic and social groups. He expressed the hope that these organs would eventually become real bodies of local government, for it was only on a basis of such local institutions that a true democracy could gradually be built in the Territory as a whole.

/(ii) Tribal

(ii) Tribal System

The representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics observed that the Administering Authority had officially maintained the anti-democratic tribal system, and made use of the privileged upper group of tribal notables in the carrying out of its policy, particularly in the collection of taxes. This tribal system could not be reconciled with progressive development towards self-government or independence.

The Council should recommend to the Administering Authority to take measures to ensure the transition from the tribal system to a system of self-government based upon democratic foundations, including the participation of the broad mass of the indigenous population.

Administrative Services

(i) African Participation

The representative of the Philippines noted that there were, as yet, very few Africans in responsible administrative position. (See observation under Educational Advancement.)

The representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics observed that all the more or less important administrative or legal posts were held by Europeans, as shown by the tables of administrative structure on pages 148-9 of the report. The Council should recommend to the Administering Authority to carry out legislative and other measures which would bring about the participation of the indigenous population in the administrative and legal services.

(ii) Common Civil Service

The representative of the United States of America commended the Administering Authority for creating in 1947 a common civil service for Europeans and Africans, thus taking an important step towards the elimination of racial discrimination.

Administration of Justice

(i) Powers of French Officials

The representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics observed that the entire legal power and judicial authority were in the hands of French officials, who were appointed by the High Commissioner and who might be removed by him at his discretion.

(ii) Introduction of French Penal Code

The representative of the United States of America noted the abolition of native justice in penal matters by the decree of 30 April 1946 and the subsequent application of the penal code of France. He invited the Administering Authority to furnish more detailed information as to the difficulties and problems that might develop in this bold experiment of applying penal laws framed to meet different social and economic conditions.

/(iii) Judicial

(iii) Judicial Powers of Chiefs

The representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics observed that for convenience in administration the French officials appealed for help to the tribal notables and traditional chiefs, who had the right to settle disputes between members of their tribes. A great number of these disputes were settled by the chiefs at their own discretion.

The representative of Belgium observed that outside the regular courts the chiefs were permitted to exercise a conciliatory function, and there was no doubt that many cases were settled by this means without any kind of intervention or control by the Administration. The Administering Authority might be invited to examine the advisability of regularizing these unofficial indigenous judgments and exercising supervision by such means as requiring written decisions, in order to protect the population against the possibility of arbitrary judgment.

(iv) Abolition of Indigenat

The representative of the United States of America commended the Administering Authority for the abolition on 20 February 1946 of the indigenat, the system by which administrative officers, rather than judges, sentenced indigenous inhabitants to fines or imprisonment for certain offences.

III. ECONOMIC ADVANCEMENT

General

The representative of Belgium expressed the hope that the new political institutions would prove by experience sufficiently fruitful to enable the economic development of the Territory, without which the finances would not bear the burden of the administration and of the cultural efforts which the Administering Authority had undertaken, particularly in the field of education.

The representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics stated that the policy of the Administering Authority was leading to further economic enslavement of the Territory by foreign companies, holding the economic development of the indigenous inhabitants at its present extremely low level, and fully exploiting the natural wealth of the Territory for the profit of English and French industrial and trading companies.

Land Tenure

The representative of China noted that a general reform of the system of land tenure was now being studied by the French Parliament, and suggested that the Council invite the Administering Authority to include in its next Annual Report a full account of the existing land situation and the problems arising from it, the nature of the contemplated reforms and some account of the discussions in the French Parliament. The Council would no doubt welcome

/any measure

any measure designed to clarify and safeguard fully the rights and interests of the indigenous inhabitants in the matter of land tenure.

The representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics stated that evidence of a violation of the rights of the inhabitants was shown by the fact (page 66 of the Report) that the 2,700,000 indigenous inhabitants had legal title to only 4,600 hectares of land - 0.017 hectare per person - while the 2,900 Europeans had legal title to 70,000 hectares, or 24.276 hectares per person, which was 1,428 greater than the average amount for the indigenous inhabitants. The Administering Authority had stated that the greater part of the indigenous population held land without asking for legal title.

The Council should seriously study this situation, through its Visiting Mission, with a view to ceasing the distribution of land to Europeans at the expense of the indigenous population, and should take up the question of the return to the indigenous population of land already alienated from it.

Mines

The representative of China noted with interest the establishment of a state corporation, the Bureau of Mines, with power to acquire mining concessions and to undertake all phases of mining operations and suggested that the Council might invite the Administering Authority to keep it fully informed of the operations of the Bureau of Mines, including annual figures showing the proportion of mining production under its control and the amount and proportion of revenue derived from it for the benefit of the Territory. The Council might also express the hope that a progressive expansion of activities of the Bureau will have the effect of greatly increasing the share of the indigenous inhabitants in the mineral wealth of the Territory.

The representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics observed that in the administration of the Bureau there were no representatives of the indigenous population, and stated that the exploitation of mineral resources was thus shown to be carried out without any participation by the inhabitants or consideration of their interests.

Industry

The representative of China noted that with a marked flow of capital towards the Territory, the development of new industries was being encouraged. The Council might express the view that the Administering Authority should do everything in its power, by making grants and loans or other forms of assistance available, to encourage and enable the indigenous inhabitants to take a full part in industrial development, and to place them upon at least as favourable a basis as enterprises supported by external private capital.

/ Commerce

Commerce and Trade: Corporation Taxes

The representative of the United States of America invited the Administering Authority to continue its efforts to ensure that a fair proportion of the profits of enterprises engaging in business in the Territory was returned to the Territory itself. It seemed of high importance that the Trust Territories should not be drained of their economic wealth. He noted the statement of the representative of France that the Administering Authority would try to work out more detailed figures on the taxation of corporations, and expressed the hope that more complete information could be furnished to the Council on this matter.

The representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics stated that the foreign trade of the Territory was in the hands of English and French companies. The Council should note not merely the fact of this foreign control, but also the fact of the resulting discrimination against the indigenous population, who controlled no companies dealing in import and export trade. The Administering Authority did not know the profits of the foreign companies, which exploited the wealth of the Territory and its people, and paid no taxes which would go directly towards their development. He pointed out the urgent necessity for measures being taken to limit the unrestricted exploitation of the Territory's resources by foreign companies: the immediate introduction of taxes on their incomes and the use of these taxes for the health and educational services of the Territory and for the improvement of the extremely difficult material situation of the indigenous population.

Wages and Living Standards

The representative of China noted that in the Cameroons, as in African Trust Territories generally, wage rates were related to the minimum subsistence level of the inhabitants. A somewhat disturbing aspect was that it was said that the workers nevertheless did not desire high wages, since their needs were simple. He doubted the validity of this argument, and pointed out that the contrary might also be argued, to the effect that the needs of the inhabitants were simple because they had no means of acquiring those goods and services which satisfied the higher needs - better clothes, better housing, and improved health and sanitary conditions. If economic and social conditions were to be improved, this improvement must be, in the first place, in terms of better clothing, housing, health and so on. Such improvement required positive action and initiative on the part of the Administering Authority, not only to create greater desires and needs but also to satisfy them.

The representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics observed
/that,

that, whereas an attempt had been made to explain the low labour productivity and frequent absenteeism by saying that the indigenous inhabitants had very meagre demands and did not like to work, the real reason was the fact that indigenous labour received a very low wage and was in a very unequal position by comparison with the Europeans.

Taxation

The representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics observed that matters of taxation, including the imposition of taxes, could not be decided by the Representative Assembly but were conditional upon the approval of the French Council.

The representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics proposed that the Council should recommend to the Administering Authority to take measures to transform the existing personal (poll) tax into a progressive income tax system, or at least into a pure income tax system which would take into account property conditions and ability to pay.

Customs Union

The representative of China noted the abolition of the Customs Union between the Camerocons and French Equatorial Africa on the apparent grounds that common tariffs might have constituted an obstacle to the independence of their economic policies. The Council might ask for details of the simple customs convention by which the union was replaced in 1948, and an account of the difference between the two systems, including an explanation of the manner in which the previous obstacle had been overcome.

Development Plan

The representative of China noted with interest the beginning of a ten year plan for social and economic development involving a total expenditure of more than 8 billion francs. He expressed good wishes for the success of the plan and appreciation of the endeavours of the Administering Authority to improve economic and social conditions.

IV. SOCIAL ADVANCEMENT

General

The representative of Belgium suggested that the Council would be unanimous in paying tribute to the boldness and the generosity with which France had extended to the African territories the social legislation and the labour code of the metropolitan country.

The representative of the United States of America approved in principle the forward step taken by the Administering Authority in creating at the end of 1947 a Department of Social and Cultural Affairs. He hoped that the Administering Authority in its next Annual Report would give more complete

/information

information on the objectives and accomplishments of this Department.

The representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics noted that the report contained very little information regarding the conditions of work and life of the indigenous population.

Population Movement

The representative of Costa Rica noted that the population of the principal town, Yaounde, had been doubled in the last six years. If this was a symptom of a dangerous tendency towards migration from country to town, steps should be taken to encourage the population to stay on the land, since the economy of the territory was primarily agricultural. The Administering Authority should concern itself with discovering the cause and investigating the means of counteracting this movement.

The representative of France remarked that the authorities were concerned with the problem and were contemplating additional measures to settle the population on the land by developing their agricultural knowledge and efficiency.

Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms

The representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics observed that although the report stated that the indigenous inhabitants enjoyed the same rights and freedoms as the inhabitants of France itself, this statement was not in any way substantiated by the facts of the situation.

Racial Discrimination

The representative of the Philippines noted with special interest the assurance of the Administering Authority that all vestiges of racial discrimination had been wiped out. He hoped that future reports would give a better account of the effective implementation of this policy.

The representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics stated that the racial problem was completely overlooked in the section of the report dealing with social advancement, although it was one of the most outstanding problems in the Territory.

Labour

The representative of the United States of America noted the statement of the special representative that the French Parliament was now working on labour legislation which when applied to the Territory, would fill the gap left by the absence of a suitable labour code. He urged the Administering Authority to complete this legislation and secure its enactment at an early date.

The representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics noted that the report did not contain information on the factual situation in the field of labour, but limited itself to some formal statistics and a listing of applicable legislation and international conventions.

/Public Health

Public Health

The representative of Iraq observed that there was room for improvement in health conditions, where the situation was extremely acute, but he was confident that the Administering Authority was alive to its responsibilities.

The representative of the United States of America noted the Administering Authority's recognition of the fact that the number of doctors and nurses in the Territory at present was inadequate, and welcomed the Administering Authority's statement that it was determined to find a way of increasing the numbers and that in this respect the Territory would soon be adequately equipped.

The representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics observed that the information supplied showed that the condition of public health in the Territory was very poor. The figures given on page 108 of the report showed on the one hand the heavy incidence of illness and on the other hand the insignificant hospital service available. The report stated that endemic illnesses - malaria, trypanosomiasis, leprosy and particularly venereal diseases - were much greater causes of death and limitation of population than were epidemics. Malaria was rampant throughout the Territory and was particularly malignant as regards children. One of the reasons for this serious situation was the absolutely insufficient medical services, including the small number of doctors, and sometimes the complete lack of medical service. According to the incomplete statistics, there was only one doctor to about 300,000 of the indigenous inhabitants and to each 4,292 patients. He considered it essential that the Council should recommend to the Administering Authority to take urgent measures for a decisive improvement in the health situation, for which it would be necessary substantially to increase the budget allocations for health services and the number of hospitals, clinics and doctors, with special attention to the training of doctors from among the indigenous inhabitants themselves.

The President suggested that the Administering Authority should take account, in its next annual report, of the observations of the representative of the World Health Organization.

Prisons System

The representative of Costa Rica observed that no re-orientation courses existed for juvenile delinquents, and that this matter deserved the greatest attention and care. The Administering Authority should concern itself, for instance, with the establishment of vocational and technical courses and the general re-education of the delinquents.

The representative of Costa Rica noted that different diet scales were provided for European and indigenous prisoners. The special representative had explained that a European could not be submitted to the African diet, but the desire of the representative of Costa Rica was that the African

/should have

should have the same diet as the European.

The representative of France remarked that this was not a case of discrimination, but was merely recognition of the fact - as was also the case in the military organizations - that the customary diets of the two groups were different. There was no difference as far as the amount of calories provided was concerned.

V. EDUCATIONAL ADVANCEMENT

General

The representative of the Philippines observed that the educational policy of the Administering Authority appeared to be characterized by three special features: the direct assumption of responsibility for education; the establishment of free education in Government schools; and the use of a common language. He proposed that the Council should commend the Administering Authority on these principles of policy, which he believed should be adopted in all Trust Territories.

The representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics stated that the unsatisfactory educational situation, with 82 per cent of the population illiterate and only half of the school-age children at school, was holding back the development of the Territory towards self-government or independence. The Administering Authority should take urgent measures to bring about the improvement of primary, secondary and higher education. He pointed out that according to official data the proportion of children aged 7-13 in schools was only 39 per cent, children aged 13-17 on the secondary level only 9.1 per cent, and students aged 17-20 in the second degree only .95 per cent.

Budget Allocations

The representative of the United States of America commended the Administering Authority for having increased its budget for education to 9 per cent of the total budget instead of the 2 to $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent of the pre-war years.

The representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics expressed the view that the budgetary allocations for education should be increased.

Public and Private Schools

The representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics proposed that the Council should recommend to the Administering Authority to have basic education carried out in government and not in private schools.

The representative of Costa Rica stated that although the ratio of one teacher to forty-seven pupils in the schools was almost satisfactory, too many teachers in private schools did not have adequate training and technical background. The Administering Authority should do all it could to

/increase

increase the number and scope of the public schools, since the teachers there were better trained and had higher standards than in the private schools.

Number of Schools and Teachers

The representative of the United States of America commended the Administering Authority for having opened 150 new elementary classes in 1947.

The representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics proposed that the Council should recommend to the Administering Authority to increase the number of schools and teachers, and to take all school-age children into school. He expressed the view that special attention should be paid to the training of teachers for the indigenous population.

Development Plans

The representative of the United States of America noted the extremely encouraging plans of the Administering Authority for educational development in the next few years.

The representative of China stated that the ten-year educational development plan appeared to be a very encouraging aspect of the administration of the territory, and future annual reports should fully cover the progressive development of education.

The representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics described the plan as completely insufficient to satisfy the requirements of the indigenous population. It envisaged, for instance, the creation of twenty-seven rural schools, at a time when one half of the school age children were not studying in schools and 82 per cent of the population was illiterate. Yet the special representative had said that in order to bring about complete education for all children of school age, which was the basic objective, one thousand schools were needed.

Secondary and Higher Education

The representative of the Philippines proposed that the Council should note that under the ten-year educational development plan it was intended to increase the number of secondary establishments from six to twelve. Since the present schools could accommodate no more than 780 African pupils, a mere doubling of the present enrolment would fall short of the great need for educated Africans who could assume greater responsibility in the administration of the Territory.

The Council should take the view that in a territory of some 2,700,000 persons, the proposal to have only twelve secondary schools for the next ten years or more pre-supposed that the political, economic and social conditions of the inhabitants would remain almost at a standstill. The Council should note that there were, as yet, only a very few Africans in responsible administrative positions, and that there was already a shortage

/of doctors

of doctors and other trained persons. It should point out, therefore, that the scope of and need for the employment of trained Africans in the administration alone demanded more energetic measures to produce Africans with the proper qualifications.

Furthermore, the Council should express the hope that the next ten or fifteen years ought to show a much further advance in the economic, political and social progress of the Territory and a much greater increase in the responsible participation of the Africans in this field, all of which would require the most vigorous implementation of educational policy.

The representative of Iraq stated that there seemed to be room for improvement of higher education, and that the Administering Authority was aware of its responsibility in this matter.

Education of Moslems

The representative of Iraq expressed the opinion that the Administering Authority must make an earnest effort to disseminate education among the groups of the population belonging to the Moslem faith, by establishing schools and educational centres to suit their own particular culture and background.

Curricula: Agricultural Instruction

The representative of Costa Rica stated that in the curricula for indigenous pupils greater emphasis should be placed on agricultural instruction, since the economy of the territory was agricultural and the population should be taught to cultivate the soil by increasingly efficient scientific methods.

Use of Local Languages

The representative of the United States of America noted the fact that the authorities of the Togoland territories under British and French administration were studying the problem of whether the vernacular or the metropolitan language should be used in the first years of instruction, and that the Department of Education of the Cameroons under French administration was planning an experiment in vernacular education. He also invited the Administering Authorities to put their best co-operative efforts into a further study of this question.

The representative of the Philippines welcomed the use and teaching of the French language in public schools maintained by the Government. None of the numerous dialects had ever reached a national level, but the development of French as a national language would bring about the sense of unity and nationalism which was desirable in the progress of a people towards self-government or independence.

The representative of Iraq expressed the view that there must exist a vernacular of some sort that could be encouraged, instead of enforcing a

/foreign

foreign language which carrying foreign traditions, background and culture, and being conditional to the holding of office, would jeopardize the eventual self-determination of the inhabitants. Since the populations of even the most advanced nations could hardly be expected to know a second language, it seemed somewhat arbitrary that people under trusteeship were by law required to know a foreign language before they could exercise their rights as citizens. The knowledge of a secondary language must be second to the development of a local vernacular, which was essential to the respect required by Article 73 of the Charter for the indigenous culture.

The representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics stated that in the use of the French language at all stages in all recognized private and government schools the national characteristics of the population were not taken into account. The lack of a single lingua franca in the Territory had been advanced as one of the reasons for the lack of teaching in native languages, but during the several years in which France had been the Administering Authority the various local languages could have been carefully studied and a common alphabet and one or more of the most popular local languages could have been developed.

He proposed that the Council should recommend to the Administering Authority to have education conducted in local languages.

The representative of France emphasized the existence of a great number of dialects which were not even of the same linguistic origin, and none of which was sufficiently developed to serve as a basis for education. Even if local dialects were used at the elementary stages, pupils would be at a disadvantage in going on to higher education - especially in such fields as medicine and technical training - for which the local dialects were simply not equipped. The Administering Authority was equally concerned that the local culture should not be destroyed by the teaching of a foreign language, and considerable studies were being carried out for the purpose of preserving the African culture.

Literacy Rate

The representative of the United States of America commended the Administering Authority for having achieved a rate of literacy that was relatively high among the non-self-governing territories of Africa. He invited the Administering Authority to increase its efforts to overcome illiteracy, and urged it to strive for the achievement of permanent literacy among those who had already learned to read and write.

The representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics drew attention, in emphasizing the urgent need for educational improvement, to the fact that according to official data the high proportion of 82 per cent
/of the population

of the population was illiterate.

Library Services

The representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics noted the existence of only fifteen small libraries in the entire Territory, nine of them possessing only about 300 to 500 books. Furthermore, the greater number of publications in circulation were in the French language, and were thus not available to the majority of the indigenous population.

He proposed that the Council should recommend to the Administering Authority to increase substantially the number of libraries and the number of books in local languages.

VI. MISCELLANEOUS

Form of the Annual Report

The representative of the United States of America observed that, although the quality of the report was high, there were at least twelve instances in which answers to several questions were combined. This seemed to make the examination of the report unnecessarily difficult.

The representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics stated that the information contained in the report was insufficient and inexact, and did not give a true picture of the situation in respect of the fulfilment of the basic objectives set forth in Article 76 of the Charter. Instead of concrete data on any given question, the report was limited to general statements, and although the questioning of the special representative and the representative of France made it possible to clarify some points, in many cases the special representative had said that he did not have the necessary information.

PART III

Conclusions and Recommendations of the Council

I. POLITICAL ADVANCEMENT

General

The Council commends the Administering Authority for the recent reforms which are designed to contribute to the political education and advancement of the inhabitants of the Territory, namely, the introduction of suffrage and establishment of the Representative Assembly.

The Council has not taken a stand on the question of the participation of the Territory in the French Union, as this question is being studied by a special committee of the Council.

Development of National Consciousness

The Council, noting with interest the statement of the Administering Authority that in spite of the artificiality of the boundaries and the heterogeneity of the inhabitants a sense of territorial unity is being developed, and, being of the opinion that full development of such a sense of unity and common identity is essential in the evolution of the Trust Territory as a distinct political entity, recommends that the Administering Authority foster this development by all possible means such as the intensification of education, the improvement of communications and the encouragement of common political activities in the Territory.

Relationship with French Union

The Council welcomes the important assurance given by the special representative that the inhabitants will have the right at the appropriate time to determine for themselves whether they should remain in the French Union or assume a status of independence outside the Union. The Council notes the statement of the representative of France that "at the appropriate time there will be full freedom, and the population will vote the laws applying to the Territory".

Representative Assembly

The Council, noting that the powers of the Representative Assembly are limited to financial and administrative matters, and in particular that the Assembly has no power to initiate legislation, which is the prerogative of the French National Assembly, urges the Administering Authority, irrespective of the present or future relationship of the Territory to the French Union, progressively to extend the powers of the Representative Assembly, particularly in the field of legislation.

/Suffrage

Suffrage

The Council, commending the Administering Authority for the introduction into the Territory of a system of suffrage, and noting that the right to vote is at present limited to certain advanced groups of the population, welcomes the policy of the Administering Authority to take progressive measures in order to bring about universal suffrage, which the Council considers might in the first instance be applied to the election, in the more advanced areas, of the proposed new forms of regional councils and municipal commissions.

Councils of Notables

The Council, considering that a truly democratic system of government can only be built on the basis of responsible local self-government, notes with interest and approval the intention of the Administering Authority to broaden the composition of the Councils of Notables so as to include not only chiefs and notables but also representatives of trade unions, co-operatives and other groups.

Administrative Services

The Council commends the Administering Authority for creating in 1947 a common civil service for Africans and Europeans, and recommends that it intensify its efforts to bring about greater participation of the indigenous population in responsible posts in the administrative and judicial services.

Administration of Justice

The Council commends the Administering Authority for the abolition on 20 February 1946 of the indigenat, the system by which administrative officers rather than judges sentenced indigenous inhabitants to fines or imprisonment for certain offences.

II. ECONOMIC ADVANCEMENT

Mining

The Council, noting with interest the establishment of a state corporation, the Bureau of Mines of Overseas France, with power to acquire mining concessions and to undertake all phases of mining operations, expresses the hope that the progressive expansion of the activities of the Bureau will have the effect of greatly increasing the share of the indigenous inhabitants in the mineral wealth of the Territory.

Industry

The Council, noting that with a marked flow of capital towards the Territory the development of new industries is being encouraged, recommends that the Administering Authority do everything in its power, by making

/grants

grants and loans or other forms of assistance available, to encourage and enable indigenous inhabitants to take a full part in industrial development.

Wages and Living Standards

The Council, noting with concern that in the Cameroons, as in the African Trust Territories generally, the indigenous wage rates frequently are low and sometimes do not exceed the minimum subsistence level, and being of the opinion that this situation, which may have arisen from economic conditions in the past, is harmful to the economic and social development of the indigenous inhabitants, recommends that the Administering Authority carry out a special study of the problem of wages and standards of living of the indigenous population, and urges the Administering Authority to take all possible measures to raise the wage level and to improve the standard of living in terms of housing, clothing, medical and social services.

Development Plan

The Council expresses its appreciation for the endeavours of the Administering Authority to improve economic and social conditions and trusts that the Ten-Year Plan will be successful.

III. SOCIAL ADVANCEMENT

Population Movement

The Council notes that the population of the principal town, Yaounde, has doubled within the last six years. The Council recommends that the Administering Authority take further steps to investigate the cause of this movement lest this fact may be a dangerous symptom of a disproportionate migration from country to town.

Racial Discrimination

The Council notes with special interest the assurance of the Administering Authority that all vestiges of racial discrimination have been eliminated and hopes that future reports will give an account of the effective implementation of this policy.

Labour

The Council notes with satisfaction the statement of the Special Representative that the French Parliament is now working on labour legislation designed to fill the gap left by the absence of a suitable labour code. The Council hopes that the Administering Authority will complete such legislation and will secure its enactment at an early date.

Public Health

The Council notes the Administering Authority's recognition of the fact that the number of doctors and nurses in the Territory at present is inadequate, and welcomes the Administering Authority's statement that it is determined to find a way of increasing their number and that in this respect the Territory will soon be adequately equipped.

Prisons System

The Council recommends that the Administering Authority devote attention to the provision of rehabilitation courses for juvenile delinquents, by such methods as the establishment of vocational and technical training facilities.

The Council notes that a distinction is drawn in the prisons system, in diet and other matters, between European and indigenous prisoners, and recommends that the Administering Authority study the situation with a view to establishing prison conditions no less favourable to the indigenous prisoners than to the Europeans.

IV. EDUCATIONAL ADVANCEMENT

General

The Council commends the Administering Authority for having established, under its direct responsibility, free public education, and for having increased the budgetary allocation for education from three and one-half per cent in pre-war years to nine per cent of the total budget.

The Council considers, however, that the development of public education should be further intensified, and notes with interest the ten-year development plan for education.

Literacy Rate

The Council commends the Administering Authority for having achieved a rate of literacy which is relatively high for Africa. The Council invites the Administering Authority to increase its efforts to overcome illiteracy and urges the Administering Authority to strive for the achievement of permanent literacy among those who have already learned to read and write.

Higher Education

The Council notes with satisfaction the laudable efforts of the Administering Authority to promote higher education by a system of scholarships abroad and expresses the hope that the Administering Authority may find it possible to intensify its efforts in this direction.

Use of Local Languages

The Council urges the Administering Authority to study the possibility of relaxing the requirement of a knowledge of the French language for the holding of public information.