

TRUSTEESHIP
COUNCILCONSEIL
DE TUTELLE

T/294

4 April 1949

ENGLISH

ORIGINAL: RUSSIAN

Fourth session

Items 3 (c) and 3 (d) of the Agenda

EXAMINATION OF ANNUAL REPORTS:

CAMEROONS AND TOGOLAND UNDER FRENCH ADMINISTRATION, 1947

UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS: Additions to Part II of the
Draft Reports of the Council Submitted by the Drafting
Committee on Annual Reports (T/277 and T/278)

If the additions proposed by France (T/288 and T/289) are included,
insert after them the following observations:

1. After additions No. 1 (T/288 and T/289):

The facts stated in the speech of the Soviet representative show
that the population of the Cameroons and Togoland not only does not
enjoy the liberties proclaimed by the French Constitution, but does
not in fact possess political rights of any kind.

2. After additions No. 2 (T/288 and T/289):

In the trusteeship agreements for the Cameroons and Togoland nothing
is said of France's right to assimilate the Cameroons and Togoland to her
colonies by including them in a political unit like the French Union.
The United Nations Charter, not the French Constitution, is the basic
guide for the development of the trust territories of the Cameroons and
Togoland.

3. After additions No. 3 (T/288 and T/289):

The decree of 25 October 1946 confirms that the Representative
Assembly has no real powers. In Article 33 of that Decree it is stated
that: "The Assembly shall conduct debates and express opinions" (Report,
page 224). Consequently its principal function, according to that Decree,
is to debate and express opinions. Such powers cannot be described as
real. In reality the Assembly has advisory functions only. The "debates"
of the Assembly have no final force. By Article 35 of the Decree (Report,
page 224) the Commissioner can simply annul them. Article 36 makes it
obligatory for the Conseil d'Etat of France to approve debates in the
Assembly on the system of taxes and dues and the right to levy them. The
Conseil d'Etat may quite arbitrarily amend the proposals of the Assembly

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and the Assembly cannot insist upon them (page 225). The budget is brought into effect by the Head of the territory. The initiative in introducing expenditure items for the establishment of new posts or the increase of credits affecting personnel lies exclusively with the Head of the territory (page 225). According to Article 42 of the Decree the Assembly may not grant any privileges to any official or class of officials: this right belongs exclusively to the Head of the territory. All these provisions prove that the Representative Assembly cannot be said to have any real powers. Even in questions which affect the population most vitally and immediately, such as finance, the Assembly has no real powers.

5. After additions No. 5 (T/288 and T/289):

The tribal system cannot be considered as "democratic progress", and the replies of the special representative of the Administering Authority (T/P.V.130, pages 81-82) show that the Administering Authority is artificially maintaining the tribal system.

6. After addition No. 6 (T/288):

The observation of the Soviet representative is based on data contained in the Report (pages 147-149) and is therefore completely warranted.

After additions Nos. 6 on Togoland and 8 on the Cameroons (T/288 and T/289):

The observation of the Soviet representative is based on the reports (e.g. page 26 of the Report on the Cameroons), where reference is made to so-called native conciliation tribunals consisting of three chiefs with power to settle disputes between indigenous inhabitants, and also on the replies of the special representative (e.g. T/P.V.130, pages 81-82)

7. After addition No. 7 on the Cameroons (T/288):

The observations of the Soviet representative is based on the statement in the Report (page 27) that the staff of each jurisdiction is in principle appointed and dismissed by the High Commissioner.

After additions Nos. 7 on Togoland (T/289) and 9 on the Cameroons (T/288):

The observation of the Soviet representative is confirmed by facts taken from the Reports (e.g. pages 39, 56 of the Report on the Cameroons; page 69 of the Report on Togoland) and from the replies of the special representative (e.g. T/249, page 19 on the Cameroons; T/P.V.131, page 7 on the Cameroons; T/P.V.137, page 7 on Togoland).

8. After addition No. 8 on Togoland (T/289):

/The French

The French representative cannot deny that the indigenous inhabitants and the majority of the Representative Assembly always oppose classification. This constitutes undeniable proof that classification is detrimental to the interests of the indigenous population. The requirement that the classification should be carried out in agreement with the village notables does not constitute a guarantee because the interests of such notables and those of the indigenous population might often not coincide.

9. After addition No. 9 on Togoland (T/289) and No. 11 on Cameroons (T/288):

The Administering Authority does not know the profits earned by these companies in the Trust Territory nor the extent of these companies' capital investments (T/P.V.131, page 22). It is clear that under these circumstances the companies do not pay taxes on the whole of their revenues and the Administering Authority cannot levy taxes on their total revenues since it does not know what amount it should tax; for this reason it cannot make use of taxes for the development of the Trust Territory.

10. After addition No. 10 on Cameroons (T/288):

The explanation of the French representative cannot change the basic picture of the distribution of land as between the indigenous population and Europeans since the average European holds 1,428 times more land, which he owns legally, than the average indigenous inhabitant.

The importance of this question is so obvious that the Trusteeship Council is bound to examine it in order to put a stop to the alienation of lands belonging to the indigenous population and to restore to the indigenous population the lands already alienated.

After additions No. 10 on Togoland (T/289) and No. 12 on Cameroons (T/288):

The French representative cannot disprove the figures cited by the representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, which constitute evidence of racial discrimination. The fact that the French representative describes as an expatriation grant the difference between the salaries paid to Europeans and those paid to the indigenous inhabitants does not do away with the discrimination, especially as this grant is permanent.

11. After the additions No. 11 on Togoland (T/289) and No. 13 on the Cameroons (T/288):

In support of his observation the USSR representative refers to Article 36 of the Decree of 25 October 1946.

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12. After the additions No. 12 on Togoland (T/289) and No. 14 on the Cameroons (T/288):

A great number of written, as well as oral questions on these sections of the reports confirm the correctness of the observation made by the USSR representative.

13. After the additions No. 13 on Togoland (T/289) and No. 15 on the Cameroons (T/288):

The statement of the representative of France that France is proud of the conditions in the Cameroons and Togoland is alarming as it may indicate a definite tendency to retain in the Trust Territories a low level of political, economic, social and educational development in violation of the requirements of Article 76 of the United Nations Charter.

14. After the additions No. 14 on Togoland (T/289) and No. 16 on the Cameroons (T/288):

The statement of the representative of France fails to refute the concrete facts of discrimination cited by the USSR representative.

15. After the addition No. 15 on Togoland (T/289):

The amounts of increased budget credits for public health as given by the representative of France do not indicate that the public health situation is favourable as it is in such a bad state that much larger credits are required in order to raise it to a fairly satisfactory level.

16. After the addition No. 16 on Togoland (T/289):

The figures given by the representative of France do not indicate any noticeable increase. The figure 84 (percentage of illiteracy) and the figure 24,600 number of pupils in primary schools) are much more eloquent regarding the state of education than the figures given by the representative of France.

17. After the additions No. 17 on the Cameroons and Togoland (T/288 and T/289):

The USSR representative recommended that education in government schools should be made basic. The desirability of this is obvious.

Thus, as appears from the foregoing, the objections made by the representative of France to the observations of the USSR representative are gratuitous and completely unfounded.