

UNITED NATIONS
TRUSTEESHIP
COUNCIL



GENERAL

T/523/Rev.1 /
26 May 1950
ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

DOCUMENTS
INDEX UNIT

MASTER

Seventh session provisional

1 JUN 1950

Item 5 of the agenda

9 1 4

EXAMINATION OF PETITIONS

General questions raised in the petitions from the Trust Territory
of Togoland under French administration

Document prepared by the Secretariat

At the fortieth meeting of its Sixth Session on 3 March 1950 the Trusteeship Council requested the Secretariat to prepare a summary and classification of all petitions listed on the agenda of the Council, and those received by the Visiting Mission to West Africa, which raise questions of a general character in respect of the Trust Territories in West Africa.

The present document contains, in summary form, the general questions raised in all such petitions received from and relating to Togoland under French administration.

Reference is made in the body of the report of the Visiting Mission (document T/464) to a number of these petitions, and in these cases the present document indicates, at the beginning of each group of questions concerned, the relevant page numbers of the Visiting Mission's report. Reference is also made at the end of each paragraph to the complete summary of the petition contained in document T/639 or T/640.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	<u>Page</u>
I. Political advancement	4
(a) Relationship with the United Nations	4
(b) Status of the Territory	4
(c) Status of Chiefs	5
(d) Councils of Notables	9
(e) Regional Councils	9
(f) Municipal Councils	10
(g) Executive Organs	10
(h) Powers of the Representative Assembly	10
(i) Justice	12
II. Economic advancement	13
(a) General development	13
(b) Agricultural development	13
(c) Forest classification	13
(d) Indigenous provident societies	14
(e) Co-operatives	15
(f) Trade and commerce	15
(g) Equal treatment in commercial matters	15
(h) Prices	16
(i) Industrialization	16
(j) Foreign currency and exchange	16
(k) Taxation	16
(l) Bridges	17
(m) Roads	17
III. Social advancement	18
(a) Racial discrimination	18
(b) Medical and health facilities	18
(c) Infant and child mortality	19
(d) Dietary standards	19
(e) Alcohol and spirits	19
(f) Water supply	20

	<u>Page</u>
(g) Standard of living.	20
(h) Housing	20
(i) Urban development	21
IV. Educational advancement.	22
(a) Request for aid from UNESCO	22
(b) General	22
(c) Local school needs.	23
(d) Subsidies for mission schools	24
(e) Mass education.	25
(f) Use of the vernacular	25
(g) Scholarships.	27

I. POLITICAL ADVANCEMENT

(a) Relationship with the United Nations

1. The petitioner submits a number of questions regarding assistance from the United Nations in the economic and social development of the territory. He also asks whether it is possible for Togoland to send a permanent representative to the Trusteeship Council and whether the United Nations can establish a consulate in the territory. With regard to the United Nations' practice of sending missions to the territory, the petitioner asks whether this practice will be continued in the future. (Mr. J. Tuleasi, T/PET.7/69. See T/639, paragraph 163).

(b) Status of the Territory

2. The petitioners state that they have never of their own volition requested membership of the French Union. On the contrary, they were very reluctant when the question arose of electing a deputy to the National Assembly and their decision to send a representative to the Assembly of the French Union was only agreed to after a formal statement by the Minister for Overseas France to the effect that such representation would impair none of the privileges attached to the status of Togoland as a Trust Territory. They state that they should be more interested in having a permanent representative in the Trusteeship Council (The Assemblée Réprésentative du Togo, T/PET.6/23 - 7/21. See T/640, paragraph 126).

3. The petitioners request that wider prerogatives should be granted to the Togoland representatives in France. (The Anecho Section of the Parti togolais du Progrès, T/PET.6/44 - 7/51. See T/640, paragraph 208).

4. The petitioner states that Togoland has never consented to be turned into a colony nor asked to be included in the French Union. The French Union is incompatible with the international status of Togoland, and that was the reason for the Togolanders' initial refusal to elect representatives to the French assemblies. This does not mean that they have any dislike of France, for they have no decided preference as regards the single Administration for which they ask. (Mr. Max Aihtson, T/PET.6/143 - T/PET.7/116. See T/640, paragraph 107).

(c) Status

(c) Status of Chiefs

(See Report of the Visiting Mission, T/464, pages 14-17).

5. It is claimed that the present system of administration in the Territory does not appear to promote the establishment of a native administration either in the near or more distant future. It has resulted in the suppression of the native authority, the sole vestige of which is the Chefferie. Under Decree No. 113/APA defining the status of chiefs, the Administration has transformed the traditional chiefs into government officials. Chiefs are appointed by the Administration and even their recruitment from among African employees of the Administration is permitted. Chefs de canton are remunerated by salaries, allowances and bonuses for services rendered to the Administration. They can be promoted, suspended from office, or dismissed by the Administration. This system transforms the village chief into an official who merely carries out the orders of the Commandant de Cercle. It is further noted that the Administration has submitted a draft amendment of this decree to the Representative Assembly. It is stated that the chefferie should be an institution of African rule invested with real authority and the force of positive African law. Consequently, it should be especially regarded as the basic cell from which the other organs of local rule will develop (The Assemblée Representative du Togo, T/PET.6/23 - 7/21. See T/640, paragraph 126).

6. The petitioners state that before the arrival of the Europeans in the area, the prevalent form of political organisation was the constitutional monarchy comprising a hereditary king assisted by a customary council of state and ministers. Under this system, the king was judge, commander-in-chief of the army, legislator, and executive and administrative head of the state. He possessed the right to impose taxes and tribute and to exact compulsory labour for certain purposes. It was his duty to protect his subjects, watch over the economy, and to take decisions in concurrence with the council of state. The King's role was also distinguished by certain sacred attributions. They further trace the kingship through the various periods of European contact, stating that the kings retained their authority with certain modifications. However, they complain that since the establishment of the mandate, the administering powers have not respected their customs and traditions. They ask how in a country such as Togoland, where the fundamental and traditional institution is the monarchy, self-government and independence

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can be achieved under the terms of the Charter when the Administering Authority strives to destroy this institution instead of developing it. They therefore request that the United Nations re-establish the authority of the kings. (The Principal Traditional Chiefs, T/PET.7/18. See T/640, paragraph 196).

7. It is requested that a free choice of traditional chiefs be exercised by the indigenous inhabitants themselves and that the prerogative of the African and Togoland chiefdoms be respected. (Chief Messan Komeija II, T/PET.6/22 - 7/17. See T/640, paragraph 16).

8. Togoland Chiefs are of no use to the people of the Territory. The Administration has not trained them properly. It treats them as prisoners of war and does not respect them in any way. This system should be changed (Petition from the Chief and Four Notables of the Town of Aschahum, T/PET.6/33 - 7/32. See T/640, paragraph 37).

9. Prior to the establishment of the European protectorate, there were traditional chiefs whose powers were governed by constitutions based on customary usage. These powers have gradually disappeared, and the Administering Authority has transformed the chiefs into agents of the executive power without the slightest attempt to train them in the administration of their own affairs. The administrative system now in force has failed to promote the establishment of an indigenous administration progressively endowed with responsibility for civic duties (Anecho-Glidji Section of the "Unité Togolaise", T/PET.6/45 - 7/52. See T/640, paragraph 50).

10. The local administration has assumed the right to appoint chiefs arbitrarily whereas among the inhabitants there are customs governing the appointment of traditional chiefs. The chiefs have become agents of the administration and their servility is impairing the authority which they should retain over their subjects. In answer to complaints, the argument of "administrative convenience" is advanced. But this alleged convenience cannot alter customs and the Trusteeship provisions require respect for indigenous political institutions. Such provisions, however, are not the first concern of local district officers (Ata-Quem-Dessou, Chief of the Adjigos, and Four Other Chiefs, T/PET.6/46 - 7/53. See T/640, paragraphs 51-52).

11. The Chefs supérieurs, who should be the trustees of native authority, are simply agents of the Administration. This is detrimental to the system

of native administration. It is requested that the powers of chiefs be strengthened (The Comité de l'Unité Togolaise, Section locale de Sokodé, T/PET.6/61 - 7/70. See T/640, paragraph 70).

12. Executive power within the Cercle is exclusively in the hands of the Commandant de Cercle. No authority is allowed by the Administering Power to the traditional Chiefs of the country, who are reduced to the position of agents of the Government, and must, under threat of sanctions going as far as imprisonment, carry out the orders of the Commandant du Cercle alone. It is requested that the authority of the traditional Chiefs be restored, leaving them in effective control of their own villages. (Traditional Chiefs and Notables of the Political Group "Unité Togolaise du Centre", T/PET.6/54 - 7/61. See T/640, paragraph 62).

13. The affairs of the chieftainship of each village should be left to the indigenous inhabitants themselves, that is to say, free from abusive interventions by the Administering Authority (Chefs du Canton et de Village, Membres de l'Unité Togolaise, Section Locale de l'Akposso, T/PET.6/111 - 7/103. See T/640, paragraph 97).

14. The rights of the traditional chiefs should be recognized. The appointment of village chiefs who are set up and proclaimed by the Administration, without the consent and against the wishes of the indigenous inhabitants, is deplored. The chiefs so appointed exploit the country and subject it to all forms of injustice and oppression. There should be elected traditional chiefs, appointed by the indigenous inhabitants themselves (Toffon Dakpo, Chief of the Village of Agbo-Fon, and Twelve Others, T/PET.6/55 - 7/62. See T/640, paragraph 64).

15. It is urged that the appointment of traditional chiefs be left to the indigenous inhabitants in accordance with their customs and usages. Chiefs so appointed and entrusted with special powers for administering their subjects should be recognized accordingly and safeguarded from removal without the prior knowledge of the Rural Councils and the villagers themselves.

(The Traditional Village Chiefs, District Chiefs and Notables of the Canton of Voudou, T/PET.6/56 - 7/62. See T/640, paragraph 65). The Traditional Village Chiefs, Sub-Chiefs of Quartiers and Notables of the Canton of Djama, T/PET.6/112 - 7/104. See T/640, paragraph 100).

16. The petitioners state that there no Chefs de Canton in native custom and law. These appointments are all made by the Administration (Messrs. Abe, Gbetossouhin and Sodjihoun (Atakpané), T/PET.6/57 - 7/64. See T/640, paragraph 68).

17. It is requested that chiefs be designated by the people according to custom and that they not merely be agents of the Administration (Messrs. G. Komotano and A. Nabiem, in the name of the Population of Mango, T/PET.6/64 - 7/73. See T/640, paragraph 132).

18. The petitioner transmits a copy of a resolution adopted at a meeting of the traditional chiefs and notables of the Trust Territory of Togoland under French administration, held at Lome on 17 April 1949. The resolution contains a request that the local administration should free the Togoland chiefdom of all obstacles to its development and should, in particular, rescind Decree No. 113 A.P.A. of 1 March 1945. (Mr. Augustino de Sonja, T/PET.7/14. See T/640, paragraph 13).

19. The petitioners request that the appointment of traditional chiefs should be left to the native inhabitants themselves, and should follow the usages and customs practised by each of the Ewe tribal groups. The chief thus appointed by the population should be recognized as such and should never be dethroned without the knowledge of the Royal Council and the population of the village. The petitioners urge that no Administration deemed to be foreign to the country should interfere in affairs of chieftainship. (The traditional chiefs, district chiefs and notables of the Canton of Djama, T/PET.6/112 - 7/104. See T/640, paragraph 100).

20. The petitioners request that the traditional Chiefs should be chosen in accordance with native customs and usages and that the Chiefs be free from outside influence in the exercise of their powers. (The traditional village chiefs, district chiefs and notables of the Canton of Voudou, T/PET.6/56 - 7/63. See T/640, paragraph 66).

21. Maintaining that the Powers of the Native Chiefs in Administrative and financial matters are considerably less than those of native chiefs in Togoland under British administration, the Petitioner states that Togoland should be unified in order that a uniform system of administration and education may be established. (The chiefs, notables and landowners of the Region of Klonto, T/PET.6/48 - 7/55. See T/640, paragraph 55).

(d) Councils of Notables

22. It is claimed that the Councils of Notables, by reason of their nature, composition and attributions, have not been able to play a constructive role. They were directed by the Commandants de cercle or the chefs de subdivision and African members could not exercise any initiative. These consultative bodies were abolished in 1947. (The Assemblée Réprésenteive du Togo, T/PET.6/23 - 7/21. See T/640, paragraph 126).

23. The Councils of Notables formerly existing in the Territory had no more than a consultative voice; the administrative system now in force has failed to promote the establishment of an indigenous administration progressively endowed with responsibility for civic duties (Anecho-Glidji Section of the "Unité Togolaise", T/PET.6/45 - 7/52. See T/640, paragraph 50).

(e) Regional Councils

24. The participation of the inhabitants in the administration of the district by means of an elected Council for the Cercle is requested (Traditional Chiefs and Notables of the Political Group "Unité Togolaise du Centre", T/PET.6/54 - 7/61. See T/640, paragraph 62).

25. With the purpose of replacing the Councils of Notables, the Administration submitted to the Representative Assembly draft legislation to establish the Conseils de circonscription. This contained gaps and did not possess a democratic character. Thus the Representative Assembly has opposed it and it remains pending. It is the opinion of the petitioners that these councils should be real administrative organs created with the desire of enabling Africans to participate directly in the administration of the Circonscriptions. It is only on the basis of such local institutions that it is possible progressively to establish real democracy in the whole of the Territory (The Assemblée Réprésenteive du Togo, T/PET.6/23 - 7/21. See T/640, paragraph 126).

26. The petitioners request more prerogatives for the local Representative Assembly. (The Anecho Section of the Parti togolais du Progrès, T/PET.6/44 - 7/51. See T/640, paragraph 208).

(f) Municipal Councils

27. It is stated that a Commune Mixte was established at Lomé in 1922 having at its head an administrator-mayor who also serves as the Commandant du cercle of Lomé. The members of the Municipal Commission who are nominated by the Commissaire, meet twice a year and give advice on the proposals presented by the administrator-mayor and vote the budget of the Commission. Indigenous Communes have been established at Anécho and Palimé. It is further stated that in order to increase the participation of the urban inhabitants in the conduct of municipal affairs, it is desirable that municipal councils possessing broader powers be constituted in the urban centres. The members of the municipal councils should be elected by universal suffrage (The Assemblée Representative du Togo, T/PET.6/23 - 7/21. See T/640, paragraph 126).

28. An indigenous Communal Council (Commune indigène) has been formed at Anécho. Its activities tend to be nothing but an empty show. Its seven members are appointed by the Government on the Commandant's proposal and are, more or less, the latter's henchmen; accordingly, the population looks askance at their undue powers from which it derives no benefit (The Anécho-Gliiji Section of the "Unité Togolaise", T/PET.6/45 - 7/52. See T/640, paragraph 50).

(g) Executive Organs

29. It is stated that executive power is assigned solely to the Commissaire de la République who is assisted by a Privy Council the African members of which are designated by the Commissaire. It is a purely consultative organ. The chiefs of the administrative services are high French functionaries. It is claimed that this state of affairs is not conducive to the preparation of the population for self-government. Consequently, the creation of an executive organ with broad indigenous participation, responsible to the Representative Assembly, is essential. (The Assemblée Representative du Togo, T/PET.6/23 - 7/21. See T/640, paragraph 126).

(h) Powers of the Representative Assembly

(See Report of the Visiting Mission, T/464, pages 17-21).

30. It is requested that the Representative Assembly be granted powers of legislation

legislation and the right to control the execution of public works and to ascertain whether the credits voted by it are being used for their proper purpose. (Chief Mensah Komedja II, T/PET.6/22 - 7/17. See T/640, paragraph 16).

31. It is stated that the Representative Assembly in all respects is similar to the conseils généraux in France and in French overseas territories. Its members are elected by universal suffrage, but under a dual electoral college system. Its functions are far from appropriate to the real needs of a Trust Territory, the special status of which is different from that of other overseas territories. It is further stated that the Representative Assembly of Togoland is a superstructure without a foundation since there are in fact no cantonal councils, municipal councils or district or divisional councils having any real powers. Apart from the power of decision which it has in budgetary matters and in the administration of movable and immovable public property, the Representative Assembly has a purely advisory role. The budget which it discusses is largely composed of items of compulsory expenditure and it has no right of supervision over the implementation of the budget which it has voted. The Government merely transmits to its Standing Committee a monthly statement of credits and payments sanctioned. The assembly has no power to legislate, this prerogative belongs solely to the National Assembly in France. Nor has it the right to discuss political questions although the main object ve of the Trusteeship System is the attainment of self-government or independence as the result of the necessary political advancement. The petitioners state that they have consistently called upon the French Government to grant the Representative Assembly of Togoland legislative powers. A legislative assembly empowered to discuss all public questions would afford the Territory the opportunity of serving its apprenticeship with a view to attaining the aim of the Trusteeship System, namely self-government or independence. The petitioners further state that it is difficult for them to understand the French Parliament's role as maker of laws for the Territory which they are not permitted to discuss beforehand. It is stated that 90 per cent of these laws take no account of the real interests of the Territory. If this right cannot be granted under the French Constitution, which apparently makes no provision for the complete autonomy of Trust Territories, since legislative power is reserved to organs of the French Union as a whole, the petitioners state that they presumably have no alternative but to demand the recall of all their representatives

representatives from the Metropolitan Assemblies in order to safeguard their interests. (The Assemblée Représentative du Togo, T/PET.6/23 - 7/21. See T/640, paragraph 126).

(i) Justice

32. Preliminary judgment in conciliation and other judicial affairs should be rendered by the traditional chiefs following the proper customary procedures of each group of the Ewe tribe. Each chief possesses ad hoc judicial powers conferred on him by the people (Chefs de Canton et de Village, Membres de l'Unité Togolaise, Section Locale de l'Akposso, T/PET.6/111 - 7/103. See T/640, paragraph 98).

33. It is stated that according to Article 382 of the Decree of 2 September 1933 of the Code d'instruction criminelle locale no indigenous inhabitant of Togoland may be a member of the jury of the Cour d'Assise unless he is a French citizen. This decree should be abrogated in order that Togolese may serve on the jury of any court of justice for the following reasons:

- (a) a person on trial should be judged by fellow citizens,
- (b) the trusteeship agreement forbids legislation based on racial discrimination, and
- (c) justice should not be the privilege of any one class among the population of a country. (The Assemblée Représentative du Togo, T/PET.6/23 - 7/21. See T/640, paragraph 126).

II. ECONOMIC ADVANCEMENT

(a) General development

(See Report of the Visiting Mission, T/464, pages 23-25)

34. It is stated that despite the laudable efforts of the Administering Authority, much remains to be done in respect of the economic development of the Territory. In view of the status of the Territory it is felt that assistance could be requested from specialized agencies of the United Nations for purposes of economic development. (The Assemblée Réprésenteative du Togo, T/PET.6/23 - 7/21 - See T/640, paragraph 126)

(b) Agricultural development

(See Report of the Visiting Mission, T/464, page 23)

35. The Cotocoli farmer practices hoe agriculture which impedes him from fully utilizing the available resources. Cotton, peanuts, kapok and Karité are export crops of the region but no effort is made to assist the farmer to improve his methods of cultivation. The mechanization of agriculture is requested.

(The Comité de l'Unité Togolaise, Section Locale de Sokodé, T/PET.6/61 - 7/70 - See T/640, paragraph 71)

36. It is stated that agricultural methods are backward and the introduction of mechanized methods is requested (Mossrs. G. Komotane and A. Nambiem, in the name of the Population of Mango, T/PET.6/64 - 7/73 - See T/640, paragraph 130)

(c) Forest classification

(See Report of the Visiting Mission, T/464, pages 23-24)

37. The restitution of the classified forests at Adakakpé and Gemegni is requested. It is claimed that the local administration took possession of palm plantations, forests and fields at these localities for the purpose of establishing scheduled forests, without the prior agreement of the Nuatja-born chiefs and the owners of these lands and forests. It is further alleged that the inhabitants of the savanna at Adakakpé were evicted with whips and threatened with prison and that the owners of these arbitrarily seized forests, now being landless, have left the town of Nuatja (Chief Messan Komedja II, T/PLT.6/22 - 7/17 - See T/640, paragraph 16)

38. Assistance is requested in obtaining possession of their lands in the regions of Amakpape and Nuadja which have been taken from them without forewarning or consultation. These lands are needed in order that there might be sufficient fallow land for successful cultivation. (Yawovi Kossi Ganou and other Chiefs of Nuadja, T/PET.7/41 - See T/639, paragraph 165)

39. It is maintained that bush fires caused by persons unknown are always falsely ascribed to the people of Nuatja by the Service des Eaux et Forêts. It is requested that the Forest Wardens be instructed to refrain from catechising an entire village which had nothing whatever to do with the outbreak of bush fires (Chief Messan Komedja II, T/PET.6/22 - 7/17 - See T/640, paragraph 16)

(a) Indigenous provident societies

(See Report of the Visiting Mission, T/464, page 23)

40. Indigenous Provident Societies, whose funds come from the indigenous inhabitants themselves, have been established in the Territory. Their purpose is to subsidize the economic development of farmers, planters, artisans and fishermen. Yet none of the members has any say in the investment of the Societies' funds; this rests with the Commandant de Cercle, who has, furthermore, been seriously at fault as regards compliance with the above-mentioned aim. An Administrative Council consisting of several indigenous inhabitants has been set up to ensure the smooth running of these Societies. However, they have only a consultative voice, and even so, are not consulted by the Commandant de Cercle (The Anecho-Glidji Section of the Unité Togolaise, T/PET.6/45 - 7/52 - See T/640, paragraph 50)

41. The economy is based on agriculture and there could be no pretence of developing it unless an attempt were made to initiate the peasants into modern farming methods. However, farmers are still using their prehistoric farm implements. Yet Indigenous Provident Societies exist, which are organs maintained by subscriptions of Africans, for the purpose of backing the efforts of farmers and planters and providing financial and technical assistance. Through the fault of the Administration this purpose is not achieved (Ata Quam-Desson Chief of the Adjigos, and Four other Chiefs, T/PET.6/46 - 7/53 - See T/640, paragraph 52)

42. The installation of a maize mill at Nuatja at the expense of the Indigenous Provident Society (Société Indigène de Prévoyance) is requested (Chief Messan

Komedja II, T/PET.6/22 - 7/17 - See T/640, paragraph 16)

(e) Co-operatives

43. The principal element in the economy central Togoland is agriculture, but the Administering Authority has shown no willingness to help modernize the equipment so as to achieve greater productivity. Not the slightest co-operative activity is ever suggested to the growers. The exclusively administrative organs called "Sociétés Indigènes de Prévoyance" serve other purposes than the protection of the peasant. The modernization of agricultural implements and the establishment of co-operatives are requested. (The traditional Chiefs and Notables of the Political Group "Unité Togolaise du Centre," T/PET.6/54 - 7/61 - See T/640, paragraph 62)

(f) Trade & commerce

(See Report of the Visiting Mission, T/464, page 24)

44. All commerce of the region is in the hands of European firms who monopolize all the resources to the detriment of the African. There is no freedom in the determination of prices of export crops. The trading companies together with the Administration fix the purchase price beforehand. In the stores, however, where the merchandise is of French origin only, prices are very high. The supply of sugar and petrol in the interior of the Cercle of Sokodé is very inadequate. The textiles received in Sokodé are of poor quality. The petitioners ask for the establishment of co-operatives, a free price system for their products, and absolute freedom of trade and equal treatment in commercial matters for all members of the United Nations. (The Comité de Unité Togolaise, Section Locale de Sokodé, T/PET.6/61 - 7/70 - See T/640, paragraph 71)

45. It is stated that for some years, production has been on no great scale. In order to obtain a good price for their products such as palm oil, palm kernels, maize and groundnuts, the petitioners state that they want merchants to establish themselves in the Territory "so as to develop our lands". (The Chiefs & Notables of Dzolo, Tsivief, Alagbe and Dziand, T/PET.6/29 - 7/27 - See T/640, paragraph 21)

(g) Equal treatment in commercial matters

(See Report of the Visiting Mission, T/464, page 27)

46. It is stated that under the present system of exchange control the export of certain commodities (coffee, peanuts and cotton) is permitted only to France. The greater part of the manufactured products purchased by farmers are of French origin and the prices of French products are higher than those of merchandise produced in other countries. It is requested that the provision of the Trusteeship Agreement concerning equal treatment in social, economic, industrial and commercial matters for all States Members of the United Nations and their nationals, be strictly observed. In order that this might be possible, it is necessary that there be free convertibility of foreign exchange in the Territory. (The Assemblée Représontative du Togo, T/PET.6/23 - 7/21 - See T/640, paragraph 126)

47. Referring to Article 76 of the Charter which ensures as one of the basic objectives of the Trusteeship System equal treatment in social, economic, and commercial matters for all Members of the United Nations and their nationals, the petitioners state that the indigenous inhabitants have founded tremendous hopes on this Article which left the door open to trading concerns other than Franco-British ones. But they do not see such concerns being set up and they are told that there is a secret ban on "new traders". They ask the Visiting Mission to see that this article does not remain a dead letter in the Territory (Ata-Quan-Dessou, Chief of the Adjigos, and Four Other Chiefs, T/PET.6/46 - 7/53 - See T/640, paragraph 52)

(h) Prices

48. The revalorisation of local products is requested (Chief Messan Komedja II, T/PET.6/22 - 7/17 - See T/640, paragraph 16).

(i) Industrialization

49. The industrialization of Togoland is requested (Chief Messan Komedja II, T/PET.6/22 - 7/17 - See T/640, paragraph 16)

(j) Foreign currency and exchange

50. The free use of foreign currency is requested (Chief Messan Komedja II, T/PET.6/22 - 7/17 - See T/640, paragraph 16)

(k) Taxation

(See Report of the Visiting Mission, T/464, page 25)

/51. Taxes known

51. Taxes known as communal taxes (Taxes vicinales) are paid by those liable, the proceeds being left in the hands of the Commandant who uses them as he thinks fit (the Anecho-Glidji Section of the Unité Togolaise, T/PET.6/45 - 7/52 - See T/640, paragraph 50)

52. All vexatious taxes hampering internal trade should be eliminated (the Traditional Chiefs and Notables of the Political Group "Unité Togolaise du Centre", T/PET.6/54 - 7/61 - See T/640, paragraph 63).

(1) Bridges

53. The completion of the concrete bridge over the Mono (East Nuatja) to facilitate communications throughout the year and obviate road accidents is requested (Chief Messan Komedja II, T/PET.6/22 - 7/17 - See T/640, paragraph 16)

(m) Roads

54. It is stated that the network of roads is defective and neglected. There is one macadamised road which extends for a distance of one hundred yards at Lomé. The railway takes precedence over the roads and in applying this principle the local Administration forbids motor transport carriers to use roads parallel to the railway. The indigenous inhabitant is hampered in his business by being compelled to use the railway. (Atta-Quam-Dessou, Chief of the Adjigos, and Four other Chiefs, T/PET.6/46 - 7/53 - See T/640, paragraph 52).

55. There are no means of communication for the transport of produce to the big centres of population. There is not a single road worthy of the name in the whole of this large district. It is requested that proper roads be constructed to improve communications (the Traditional Chiefs and Notables of the Political Group "Unité Togolaise du Centre", T/PET.6/54 - 7/61 - See T/640, paragraph 62)

56. It is requested that the so-called scheduled highways (routes dites classées) be maintained in view of the fact that the district taxes covering these are paid to the local administration (Chief Messan Komedja II, T/PET.6/22 - 7/17 - See T/640, paragraph 16)

57. Freedom of motor transport over all carriage - roads (voies carrossables) in the Territory is requested (Chief Messan Komedja II, T/PET.6/22 - 7/17 - See T/640, paragraph 16)

III. SOCIAL ADVANCEMENT

(a) Racial discrimination

58. Between the indigenous inhabitants and Europeans there exists too much discrimination from the standpoint of justice and labour. (The Comité de l'Unité Togolaise, Section locale de Sokodé, T/PET.6/61 - 7/70 - See T/640, paragraph 72).

59. See paragraph 33.

(b) Medical and health facilities

(See Report of the Visiting Mission, T/464, pages 28-31)

60. The construction is requested of a hospital and maternity centre at Muatja serviced by a physician or an African doctor (Medecin Africain), a midwife and male and female nursing staff, and of a dispensary at Tététou. It is claimed that at the present time the Canton of Muatja is equipped with a small dispensary lacking in medical supplies, that persons seriously ill and expectant mothers must be transferred in hired lorries to the hospital at Atakpamé, and that facilities for weekly pre-natal consultation are no longer provided. (Chief Messan Komedja II, T/PET.6/22 - 7/17 - See T/640, paragraph 16).

61. After more than half a century of contact with European civilisation Anecho possesses no hospital worthy of the name. Owing to the shortage of medicines at the dispensaries, patients are sometimes obliged to seek them elsewhere. While a few other dispensaries are to be found in the interior, they have only just been built and they suffer from those initial weaknesses common to all welfare work. (Ata-Quan-Dessou, Chief of the Adjigos, and four other Chiefs, T/PET.6/46 - 7/53 - See T/640, paragraph 52).

62. The achievement of the Trypanosomiasis service in eradicating sleeping sickness in the northern part of the Territory is recognized. But the maternity centre of Sokodé lacks water and light and is housed in temporary and unfit buildings. The Public Health Service is almost non-existent. (The Comité de l'Unité Togolaise, Section Locale de Sokodé, T/PET.6/61 - 7/70 - See T/640, paragraph 72).

63. There is no proper public health service, maternity ward or suitably equipped ward for bed cases at Atakpamé. The number of dispensaries is infinitesimal as compared with the population of the Cercle of Atakpamé (6 dispensaries for

200,000 inhabitants). An adequate health service should be established and there should be a reasonable increase in the number of dispensaries in the Cercle. (The Traditional Chiefs and Notables of the Political Group "Unité Togolaise du Centre", T/PET.6/54 - 7/61 - See T/640, paragraph 62).

64. Despite the good efforts of the doctors of the region there is a shortage of medicines. Messrs. A. Komié and A. Nambié, on the name of the Population of Nango, T/PET.6/64 - 7/73 - See T/640, paragraph 131).

65. In an address before the Visiting Mission, the Petitioner expresses his satisfaction with the present administration under whose training the territory is said to have an enviable system of education and a free medical service. (Fio Frederic Body Lawson V., T/PET.7/50 - See T/639, paragraph 167).

(c) Infant and child mortality

66. Particular attention and effort must be devoted to the fight against infant mortality. (The Assemblée Représenteative du Togo, T/PET.6/23 - 7/21 - See T/640, paragraph 126).

(d) Dietary standards

67. There is need for improving deficient dietary conditions. (The Assemblée Représenteative du Togo, T/PET.6/23 - 7/21 - See T/640, paragraph 126).

(e) Alcohol and spirits

68. It is stated that liquor constitutes the greater part of imports. The African, unaware of the ill-effects of alcohol, consumes it to excess. The importation of alcohol into the Territory should be prohibited. (The Comité de l'Unité Togolaise, Section Locale de Sokodé, T/PET.6/61 - 7/70 - See T/640, paragraph 71 and 73).

69. It is stated that alcoholism, which is encouraged by the excessive importation of liquor, should be combatted energetically by means of measures of an international order which would equally apply to neighbouring territories. (The Assemblée Représenteative du Togo, T/PET.6/23 - 7/21 - See T/640, paragraph 126).

70. It is claimed that alcohol has had a devastating effect on the youth of the Territory. (D.A. Kumadi, T/PET.6/39 - 7/40 - See T/640, paragraph 44).

(f) Water supply

71. The insufficient supply of water throughout the Territory constitutes a grave problem of public health. In view of the very great expense involved in providing an adequate supply throughout the Territory it is suggested that the United Nations might provide assistance. (The Assemblée Réprésentative du Togo, T/PET.6/23 - 7/21 - See T/640, paragraph 126).

72. There is a lack of drinking water and public latrines do not exist. The streams which have to serve for all domestic uses as well as for drinking purposes are therefore polluted. A glance at hospital statistics will show the high incidence of disease due to intestinal parasites. Drinking water is requested. (The Traditional Chiefs and Notables of the Political Group "Unité Togolaise du Centre", T/PET.6/54 - 7/61 - See T/640, paragraph 62).

73. In several areas in the interior there is no drinking water and there has been great talk lately of the problem of laying on water. (Ata-Quam-Dessou, Chief of the Adjigos, and four other Chiefs, T/PET.6/46 - 7/53 - See T/640, paragraph 52).

74. The sinking of a concrete-lined well to provide Muatja with an adequate supply of drinking water is requested. It is claimed that in times of drought it is necessary to obtain water at a distance of several kilometres, that on several occasions people have had to migrate southward because of the water shortage and that the use of pond-water for drinking is the cause of numerous cases of guinea worm. (Chief Messan Komedja II, T/PET.6/22 - 7/17 - See T/640, paragraph 16).

75. Attention is drawn to the fact that there is no water in the village of Assahun. It is requested that a well be dug in the village. (The Chief and Four Notables of the Town of Assahun, T/PET.6/33 - 7/32 - See T/640, paragraph 37).

(g) Standard of living

76. It is requested that a UNESCO Mission be sent to northern Togoland to assist in the social development of the area. (Modjo Emmanuel Gagli, T/PET.7/105 - See T/639, paragraph 169-173).

(h) Housing

77. There is need for improvement of deficient housing conditions. (The Assemblée Réprésentative du Togo, T/PET.6/23 - 7/21 - See T/640, paragraph 126).

(i) Urban

(i) Urban development

78. Sokodé, a large trading centre and an important crossroads, is nothing but a large village of thatched huts without streets and lighting. The market is unroofed. Only the European quarter is illuminated. The condition of the indigenous quarter reveals that the standard of living of Africans is very low. There is no drainage system and during the rainy season it becomes a muddy bog with hordes of mosquitoes. There are no public latrines. (The Comité de l'Unité Togolaise, Section Locale de Sokodé, T/PET.6/61 - 7/70 - See T/640, paragraph 72).

IV. EDUCATIONAL ADVANCEMENT

(a) Request for Aid from UNESCO

79. There is an urgent need for mass education in order to prepare personnel capable of directing the affairs of the Territory. The petitioners ask the Visiting Mission to take into consideration the needs of the Territory in respect of education in order that UNESCO might lend its assistance, in particular by providing scholarships for study by deserving persons in member states of the United Nations and by a study of educational development in Togoland and other territories in order to determine the amount of time it would take to conduct the population to a given level of education. (The Association Culturelle Jeune Togo, T/PET.7/19. See T/639, paragraph 155 and 156)

80. It is stated that 97 per cent of the population is illiterate. It is felt that it would be desirable, in view of this, to have the technical and financial assistance of UNESCO. (The Assemblee Representative du Togo, T/PET.6/23 - 7/21. See T/640, paragraph 126)

81. The petitioner considers that UNESCO would do useful, humanitarian work in interesting itself in the fate of the wretched tribes of North Togoland (the Lossoos, Lambas, Temberians, Motas etc.). It would be supported by young and willing elements on the spot which lack the necessary funds. The petitioner requests that UNESCO should send a special study mission. (M. Kodjo Emmanuel Gagli, T/PET.7/105. See T/639, paragraph 170-171).

(b) General

(See Report of the Visiting Mission, T/464, pages 32-39)

82. Attention is drawn to the educational progress made in the Territory. The United Nations is asked to lend its generous and vigilant support to the efforts of the Administering Authority in this field. The Administering Authority is asked to accelerate and increase its efforts in order that the population might, as soon as possible, achieve political maturity and self-government. (The Syndicat du Personnel indigene de l'enseignement public, T/PET.6/37 - 7/36. See T/639, paragraph 146 and 147)

83. Only elementary education exists in the Territory. At about the ages of 15 or 16 children are thrown on the street because they have reached the age limit. In order to remedy this state of affairs, which the people keenly deplore, /provisions

provisions should have been made for opening nursery schools, higher education institutions and vocational training schools. At last Lomé has been endowed with a secondary school which is renowned all the same for its shortage of teachers. (Ata-Quan-Dessou, Chief of the Adjigos, and four other chiefs, T/PET.6/46 - 7/53. See T/640, paragraph 52)

84. The development in Togoland of public education at all levels as well as of technical training is requested. (Chief Messan Komedja II, T/PET.6/22 - 7/17. See T/640, paragraph 16)

85. It is claimed that the type of education offered in the Territory does not educate Africans to know themselves and to take pride in their heritage. There is too much emphasis on European traditions and culture. (Mr. D. A. Kumadi, T/PET.6/39 - 7/40. See T/640 paragraph 44)

86. The petitioners ask that sound education for the masses of the people be improved. (Chiefs and Notables of Dzolo, Tsivief, Allegbe and Dziand, T/PET.6/29 - 7/27. See T/640, paragraph 21)

87. The petitioners, maintaining that education is a prerequisite to the unification and progress of Togoland, request the Trusteeship Council to recommend that higher education be encouraged in the two Territories. (Four persons in the name of the population of Akepe, T/PET.6/50 - 7/57. See T/639, paragraph 148)

88. The petitioner, in the name of the Association des Parents des Eleves de l'Enseignement Libre, thanks the United Nations for having recognized, in Article 26 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the "prior right" of parents to choose the kind of education to be given to their children, and requests the United Nations to ensure the more and more effective exercise of that right in French Togoland. (Mr. Corneille Santos, T/PET.7/37. See T/639, paragraph 157).

89. In an address before the Visiting Mission, the Petitioner expresses his satisfaction with the present administration under whose training the territory is said to have an enviable system of education and a free medical service. (Fio Frederic Body Lawson V. T/PET.7/50. See T/639, paragraph 167)

(c) Local school needs

90. Primary elementary education is available in the town of Atakpame and in some of the villages but nowhere to the extent required to enable a satisfactory proportion of the population to benefit therefrom. There is no higher primary

education in the Cercle of Atakpame! Girls' education lags far behind that of boys. Primary education both for boys and girls should be expanded in the Cercle and a higher primary school should be established. The Traditional Chiefs, Notables and landowners of the Political Group "unité Togolaise du Centre", T/PET.6/54 - 7/61. See T/640, paragraph 62)

91. The northern section of the Territory is much retarded as compared to the south. Illiteracy is universal. It was not until 1936 that the first group of students at the Sokodé Regional School received the Certificate of Primary Studies; at the present time the average number of graduates per year is between 10 and 15. In respect of the education of girls nothing has been done at Sokodé. The regional school at Sokodé since its establishment has enrolled only 2,000 pupils out of a total population of almost 100,000. Children who enter school at age eight or nine, must leave school after a certain period of time by reason of having reached the age limit; this state of affairs does not aid the development of Sokodé. School buildings are merely sheds covered with thatch and without doors or windows. There is no intellectual élite in Sokodé, the only progressive elements being persons of southern origin stationed there. No effort has been made to awaken a sense of human dignity and civil responsibility in the African. Chiefs are subjected to the Commandants de Cercle who make every effort to create a barrier between the people of the north and of the south with the intention of retarding or destroying the concept of emancipation borne by the more educated persons from the south. The Administration should take the initiative in the establishment of literary clubs at Sokodé and throughout the north. There should be development of public education. (The Comité de l'Unité Togolaise, Section locale de Sokodé, T/PET.6/61 - 7/70. See T/640, paragraphs 72-73).

92. In 1939 two students from the regional school of Mango received the Certificate of Primary Studies. In 1945 four students received the Certificate. Education should be developed very intensely. (Messrs. G. Komstane and A. Nambiém in the name of the Population of Mango, T/PET.6/64 - 7/73. See T/640, paragraphs 131-132).

93. The construction of a government school at Tététou is requested. (Chief Messan Komedja II, T/PET.6/22 - 7/17. See T/640, paragraph 16).

(d) Subsidies for mission schools

(See Report of the Visiting Mission, T/464, pages 34, 38-39)

94. The Trusteeship Council should urge the French Government and the Representative Assembly to subsidize mission schools sufficiently so as to enable these to pay their staff at rates equal to those of teachers in government schools, while safeguarding the principle of free education, at least in primary schools. The Representative Assembly has voted a grant for teaching staff in 1950 which will enable the missions to pay salaries practically equal to those paid to government teachers. (Mgr. Joseph Strehler, T/PET.7/39. See T/639, paragraph 161).

(e) Mass education

(See Report of the Visiting Mission, T/464, pages 33-34).

95. A new Franco-British system of education, started this year, would mitigate the inequality between the education of girls and boys. However, it is not being proceeded with. (The Traditional Chiefs and Notables of the Political Group "Unité Togolaise du Centre", T/PET.6/54 - 7/61. See T/640, paragraph 62).

96. Les pétitionnaire demandent que l'enseignement soit largement développé pour sortir la masse de l'analphabétisme et pour lui faire attendre ou stage favorable à l'autonomie. (Le Parte Togolais du progrès, section d'Anecho, T/PET. 6/44 - 7/51. See T/640, paragraph 208).

97. The petitioner, pointing out the need of the two Trust Territories of Togoland for "mass higher education," appeals to the United Nations to introduce "the mass scholarship system" for deserving Togoland youths as a measure to accelerate educational progress in the Territory. (Mr. Doji Lartey Tychs-Lawson, T/PET.6/108 - 7/99. See T/639, paragraph 142 and 149).

(f) Use of the vernacular

(See Report of the Visiting Mission, T/464, pages 34-38).

98. It is pointed out that under the present system of education in the Territory the teaching of the vernacular is excluded. The majority of the Children who attend school are not able to complete the full course of study; consequently, they leave school without being able to read or write either French or their native tongue. Therefore, in all primary and secondary schools there should be compulsory study of a vernacular. In this connexion it is suggested that the Ewe language could be used. (The Assemblée Réprésentative de Togo, T/PET.6/23 - 7/21. See T/640, paragraph 126).

99. Instruction in the vernacular in the French schools is virtually non-existent whereas in Togoland under British Administration the teaching of Ewe is of primary concern. Steps should be taken to induce the Government of France to include the teaching of Ewo in its teaching programme. The teaching of the rudiments of general instruction in the vernacular and the study of foreign languages based on prior study of the vernacular have produced excellent results. The results achieved by the Catholic and Protestant missions prove that the Ewe language is capable of satisfactory development. (Association Post-scolaire des anciens Eleves de la Mission Catholique de Lomé (Acclamé) T/PET.6/36 - 7/35. See T/640, paragraph 41).

100. A plan is proposed for the introduction and establishment of the vernacular in the curriculum of the schools of the Territory. This would be achieved in two stages, the first of which would consist of an hour's instruction in reading and writing in the vernacular each day. This step could be taken immediately and a basis for it is found in existent legislation which sanctions such a measure. Otherwise, classes would be conducted in the French language as at the present time. The necessary text books for the teaching of Ewe are available. The second phase of the plan proposed would require the adaptation of teaching methods and curricula to the African environment and to the needs of Africans. The programme of the Infant Junior schools of Togoland under British Administration is proposed as a model. Thus during the first phase of a child's education the vernacular receives priority over French and is fully utilized as the medium of instruction. The petitioner is convinced that a knowledge of reading and writing in the mother-tongue would facilitate the learning of French. A draft Decree designed to reorganize private education in the Territory is before the Representative Assembly and it is stated that it contains no provisions for instruction in the vernacular. It is the wish both of the Protestant and the Catholic Missions that note be taken of the population's desire for the introduction of the vernacular in the curriculum and, therefore, that provision for such instruction be made in the Decree and that this be extended also to include the curriculum of the official schools. (Mgr. Joseph Strebler, T/PET.7/39. See T/639, paragraph 165).

101. There should be instruction in the Ewe language in all schools. (The Traditional Chiefs and Notables of the Political Group "Unité Togolaise du Centre", T/PET.6/54 - 7/61. See T/640, paragraph 62).

102. It is requested that the Ewe language be taught in all schools. (The Chief and Four Notables of the Town of Assahuh, T/PET.6/33 - 7/32. See T/640, paragraph 37).

103. It is requested that the Ewe language be taught in all schools in Togoland. (Chief Mossan Komedja II, T/PET.6/22 - 7/17. See T/640, paragraph 16).

104. Although the languages spoken in certain parts of the north and centre of the Territory differ from others, the Ewe language should be adopted and officially recognized as the national trade language of the Territory. (The Chefs de Canton et de Village, Membres de l'Unité Togolaise, Section Locale de l'Akposso, T/PET. 6/111 - 7/103. See T/640, paragraph 99).

105. It is requested that Ewe be adopted as the Territory's national language. It should be recognized by the Administering Authorities as an official language to be included in the official and private, educational programme. (The Traditional Village Chiefs, District Chiefs and Notables of the Canton of Voudou, T/PET.6/56 - 7/63. See T/640 paragraph 67).

106. The petitioner calls for the inclusion of the Ewe language in the school curriculum in Togoland under French Administration. (Mr. Augustine de Soufa, T/PET.7/14. See T/640, paragraph 13).

107. The Ewe language is becoming a national language of the country. It should be adopted and recognized by the Administration as an official language, and should be incorporated in the official and private education programmes. (The traditional chiefs, district chiefs and notables of the Canton of Djama, T/PET. 6/112 - 7/104. See T/640, paragraph 100).

108. The petitioner charges that the French administration does not permit the teaching of the vernacular in the schools of the Territory under its administration, and that its educational policy is to make the inhabitants completely French. (The chiefs, notables and landowners of the region of Klonto, T/PET.6/48 - 7/55. See T/640, paragraph 55).

(g) Scholarships

109. The petitioner, pointing out the need of the two Trust Territories of Togoland for "mass higher education," appeals to the United Nations to introduce "the mass scholarship system" for deserving Togoland youths as a measure to accelerate educational progress in the Territory. (Mr. Doji Lartey Tychs-Lawson, T/PET.6/108 - 7/99. See T/639, paragraphs 142 and 149).