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CONDITIONS IN THE TRUST TERRITORY OF THE CAMEROONS UNDER FRENCH ADMINISTRATION

Report of the Drafting Committee

Chairman: Mr. Rafik Asha (Syria)

1. At its 496th meeting on 15 February 1954, the Trusteeship Council appointed a Drafting Committee composed of representatives of Australia, El Salvador, New Zealand and Syria to propose, on the basis of the discussions which had taken place in the Council, conclusions and recommendations on conditions in the Trust Territory of the Cameroons under French administration and to make recommendations concerning the chapter on that Territory for inclusion in the next report of the Council to the General Assembly.
2. The Drafting Committee held eleven meetings, at the first of which it elected Mr. Rafik Asha (Syria) as its chairman. The Committee had the assistance of the Special Representative of the Administering Authority and also of the representative of UNESCO.
3. The Drafting Committee decided to recommend that the Secretariat working paper (document T/L.406), as revised to take into account the additional information submitted to the Council by the Special Representative from the Territory (T/L.406/Add.1), should be the basic text for the chapter on conditions in the Trust Territory.

4. In the light of the general discussion by the Council on conditions in the Territory, the Committee drafted a number of conclusions and recommendations which it considered as reflecting the opinions of the Council as a whole and has annexed them to the present report.
5. The representative of Syria reserved the right of his delegation to propose amendments to certain conclusions and recommendations as well as new recommendations in the course of the discussion of the report in the Council.
6. The Committee accordingly recommends to the Trusteeship Council that it adopt the working paper on conditions in the Cameroons under French administration (T/L.406 and Add.1) as the basic text for the chapter on that Territory for inclusion in the next report of the Council to the General Assembly; and that it adopt the conclusions and recommendations set out below and include them at the end of each appropriate section or sub-section of the chapter.
7. In view of the fact that the question of the implementation of General Assembly resolutions 558 (VI) and 752 (VIII), concerning the attainment of self-government or independence, will be open for further discussion as a separate item of the agenda of the Council at the present session, the Drafting Committee decided not to formulate any draft conclusion or recommendation concerning their application to the Cameroons under French administration.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS PROPOSED
BY THE DRAFTING COMMITTEE

I. GENERAL

Frontier problems: question of unification

1. The Council, noting the opinion expressed by the 1952 Visiting Mission with respect to the question of the unification of the two Cameroons, namely, that the desire for the unification of the two Trust Territories is not of a critical nature in the Cameroons under French administration and that the mass of the population is not concerned with the problem, expresses the hope that the question will be kept under review and that the Administering Authority will inform the Council in its future reports of opinion in the Territory, its views on and attitude towards the question of unification.

II. POLITICAL ADVANCEMENT

Integration of the Cameroons within the French Union

2. The Council, mindful of the objectives of the International Trusteeship System, taking into consideration the opinions expressed on the relationship which exists between the Trust Territory and the French Union as well as the observations of the Administering Authority, in particular its statement that the peoples of the Trust Territories would, upon the termination of the Trusteeship System, be free to achieve their aspirations outside the French Union if they so desired, considering further the Council's previous recommendations on this question, expresses confidence that this relationship will continue to remain in accordance with the terms of the Trusteeship Agreement and the provisions of the Charter.

Exercise of political rights

3. The Council, recalling its previous recommendations as well as the opinion expressed by the 1952 Visiting Mission, considering the views expressed during the current session of the Council, urges the Administering Authority to introduce the single electoral college system, if possible, before the next elections.

4. The Council, noting the lack of political unity between the northern and southern regions of the Territory, taking into consideration the observations of the Administering Authority in this respect, expresses the hope that the Administering Authority will continue to take all possible measures to promote among the inhabitants of the Territory a sense of national consciousness which will lead to a wider social and political integration of the Territory.

Territorial Assembly

5. The Council, recalling its previous recommendations concerning the Territorial Assembly with respect to the further increase of the African membership and the enactment of a bill extending the Assembly's powers, noting the assurance given by the representative of the Administering Authority that his government was prepared to extend considerably the deliberative powers of the Territorial Assembly and that some of its members would be elected to an Executive Council which is to be established, urges the Administering Authority to have the bill enacted with the least possible delay.

Regional Administration and Rural Mixed Communes

6. The Council, noting with satisfaction the increase in the number of urban mixed communes and the introduction of rural mixed communes as well as the proposed electoral reform of the municipal communities of Douala and Yaoundé, expresses the hope that these institutions can be further developed and established throughout the Territory and that the Administering Authority will advise these bodies in the more effective exercise of their functions.

Traditional Chiefdoms

7. The Council, noting with satisfaction the steps being taken by the Administering Authority in organizing chiefdoms, establishing village offices which have had the effect of defining more precisely the responsibilities of village chiefs, and extending the system of communes; noting further that the Administering Authority has submitted a bill to the French Parliament defining the role and powers of the traditional chiefs, recommends that the Administering Authority take all necessary measures to ensure the progressive democratization of traditional institutions.

III. ECONOMIC ADVANCEMENT

General

8. The Council, noting the satisfactory progress achieved in the economic and capital development of the Territory, commends the emphasis that will be given in the second phase of the Ten-Year Plan to an increase in production, considers that the success of the plan will, in large measure, depend upon the participation and co-operation of the indigenous population with the Administering Authority and expresses its confidence that with this co-operation the Administering Authority will exert every effort in the fulfilment of the plan.

9. The Council, recalling its previous recommendations, emphasizing the importance of the greater participation of the indigenous inhabitants in the economic development of the Territory, commends to the Administering Authority the observation of the 1952 Visiting Mission that every possible precaution should be taken to safeguard the interests of the indigenous inhabitants and to reserve to them the part which is theirs in the economic development of the Territory.

Agriculture

10. The Council notes that under the second phase of the Ten-Year Plan, one of the main objectives is the modernization of farming and the extension of technical training, notes with satisfaction the efforts of the Administering Authority to diversify crops, which should contribute to a greater measure of economic stability in the Territory, and urges it to intensify these efforts.

11. The Council expresses its concern that returns to cocoa producers are at present directly related to the fluctuation of prices obtainable on the world market, and, noting the statements of the special representative of the Administering Authority with regard to the difficulties experienced in establishing a stabilization fund for cocoa, requests the Administering Authority to further study measures which may be taken to ensure stability of returns for cocoa producers.

12. The Council also urges that the Administering Authority take steps to encourage further the development of the co-operative movement in the Territory for the marketing of cocoa and other products.

Industries

13. The Council, noting with satisfaction the measures taken by the Administering Authority in respect of industrial development, as well as the extension of financial assistance to existing craft industries, expresses the hope that the Administering Authority will encourage the development of light industries with greater participation of the indigenous inhabitants.

Forests

14. The Council, conscious of the dangers of deforestation and soil erosion in the Territory, urges the Administering Authority to take all appropriate measures in respect of soil conservation and the protection of forests, in particular the classification of forests and reforestation, and expresses the hope that the Administering Authority will receive the full co-operation and support of the indigenous inhabitants in the implementation of these measures.

Indigenous co-operatives and provident societies

15. The Council recommends that the Administering Authority in co-operation with the indigenous population give special attention to the development of the co-operative movement in all its phases.

Land tenure

16. The Council, considering the statement of the special representative of the Administering Authority regarding the spreading of the system of recognition of land rights of the indigenous inhabitants and of the registration of land titles, considering further his statement that in urban and developed agricultural areas the right of individual property was being recognized progressively, expresses the hope that the Administering Authority will continue its endeavours, inter alia, by an extension of the cadastral survey, to encourage the progressive definition of the rights to land of the indigenous inhabitants.

17. The Council, noting the statement of the 1952 Visiting Mission that the procedure requiring the intervention of the Territorial Assembly in the granting of concessions seemed to provide a satisfactory way of safeguarding the interests

of the Territory and of the indigenous inhabitants, reaffirms its previous recommendation that the interests of the African population should be adequately safeguarded when concessions are granted to non-indigenous inhabitants.

Public finance and taxation

18. The Council, noting that the substitution of the present system of individual taxation by a progressive tax on income is the objective of the Administering Authority and that progress has been made in that direction, urges the Administering Authority to intensify its efforts toward the extension of the income tax system, to the extent practicable, to all sections of the population.

IV. SOCIAL ADVANCEMENT

Status of women

19. The Council, noting the statement of the 1952 Visiting Mission that the excessively high bride-price has had harmful social consequences, noting with satisfaction that the Lamine-Gueye Law provides in principle for equality between officials, noting, however, that the application of this law in a polygamous society has contributed in some measure to the existing high bride-price, recommends that the Administering Authority take steps to seek an effective solution to this problem, if necessary by the modification of any measures passed for the application of the Lamine-Gueye Law, and that the Administering Authority encourage the emancipation and training of women in pursuits to which they are suited.

Labour

20. The Council notes with satisfaction the entry into force in the Territory of the Labour Code for the Overseas Territories and the establishment of the Consultative Labour Committee for its implementation and expresses confidence that the provisions of the Code will be applied in a manner which will ensure steady improvement in the welfare and protection of wage earners.

Wages and standards of living

21. The Council, recalling its previous recommendations concerning the study of living standards, expresses the hope that the Administering Authority will shortly be able to complete its investigations in this field and that it will inform the Council of the results.

Public Health

22. The Council, noting the progress achieved in the development of medical and health services, recommends that the Administering Authority continue its efforts to meet the needs of the Territory and to eradicate the serious diseases which prevail in the Territory, in particular malaria, venereal diseases and tuberculosis.

V. EDUCATIONAL ADVANCEMENT

General

23. The Council, noting with satisfaction the efforts which have been made by the Administering Authority in the field of education, noting further the marked increase in budgetary appropriations and the increase in the number of pupils and schools as well as the progress recognized by UNESCO in fundamental and adult education, recommends that efforts be intensified with respect to the training of teachers and the expansion of secondary, vocational and technical and fundamental education.

Higher education

24. The Council, recalling its previous recommendation on the question of establishing higher educational facilities in the Territory as soon as practicable, noting the increasing enrolment in secondary schools, recommends that the Administering Authority give further consideration to this matter, particularly with regard to the possibility of establishing courses in a limited number of fields as a first step toward the creation of a university in the Territory.

25. The Council, noting with satisfaction the increase in the number of scholarships granted for study in higher institutions in the metropolitan country, recommends that the Administering Authority increase, to the extent possible, the number of these scholarships.
