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CONDITIONS IN THE CAMEROONS UNDER FRENCH ADMINISTRATION

Summary of observations made by individual members of the Council during
the general discussion and of the comments of the representative and
special representative of the Administering Authority

I. GENERAL

General

1. The representative of the United Kingdom said that, notwithstanding the unhappy events of May 1955, the Territory as a whole showed considerable progress in many fields.
2. The representative of New Zealand stated that the impression was everywhere gained from the report of the Visiting Mission of an increasingly thriving Territory making good use of its unremarkable physical resources and being guided and assisted intelligently by the Administering Authority.
3. The representative of Italy stated that a general evaluation of conditions in the Territory and of the progress made since they were last examined led largely to positive conclusions. Active work was being carried out there to assure the development of political institutions and to improve economic, social and educational conditions. His delegation was happy to note this and to congratulate the Administering Authority. It was sure that the Administering Authority would continue, as before, to exert every effort towards the orderly and progressive attainment of the objectives of the United Nations Charter.

4. The representative of Syria stated that his delegation approached the problem of appraising conditions in the Cameroons under French administration with a certain sense of uneasiness, a sense of concern, which had developed since the occurrence of the unfortunate events of May 1955. He deeply regretted the loss of life and trusted that such events would never occur again.
5. He believed that the Council must remember the rapid and increasing pace of political development among the people of West Africa. The Council was dealing with people who were living in an atmosphere still more dynamic than that existing ten years before when the Trusteeship System went into operation, an atmosphere where the people of the Trust Territories were impregnated with ideas - revolutionary ideas, ideas of dissatisfaction with traditional authority, ideas of the true value of human rights, of human dignity and of political freedom. He did not think the Council could afford to pretend that these ideas would safely wait while economic, social and educational advancement, not to speak of political progress, moved at the same slow pace as in the past. The Council could not afford to pretend that the people of the Trust Territories would be content, or should be required, to approach self-government through the same long, slow, fumbling stage of evolution civilization had passed through in the course of centuries. The Council could not afford to pretend that the indigenous inhabitants of the Trust Territories must wait until they were literate before they could vote, must wait until their stomachs were filled before their elected leaders could assume responsibility for their affairs, or must wait until the economy of their territory was fully developed before they assumed the dominant role in it.
6. He did not intend these general remarks as a criticism of any one Administering Authority, but felt that the members of the Council must remind themselves of the important events taking place in Africa today. Sometimes, modest reforms at the proper time would avoid discontent, disturbances, and certainly bloodshed.
7. The representative of Australia thought it possible to record his general satisfaction with the progress being made in the Territory towards the basic objectives of the Trusteeship System. He wished to commend the Administering

Authority and the inhabitants of the Territory for the efforts which had been made to this end and to congratulate both parties on the measure of success which these efforts had so far met.

8. The representative of Guatemala stated that the efforts of the Administration in favour of the economic and social development of the Cameroons were indubitably important, but they were insufficient if they were to give rise to an adequate rate of development. The slowness of the development could give rise to social unrest and to concern with regard to the future of the Territory.

9. The representative of Belgium, having been a member of the Visiting Mission and having participated in the drafting of the Report submitted by it, called attention to the conclusions of the Mission and deemed it unnecessary to repeat them in detail in his personal intervention concerning the conditions in the Cameroons under French administration.

10. The special representative of the Administering Authority thanked those delegations which had been good enough to congratulate the Administering Authority or to express satisfaction with progress which they regarded as considerable in the political, economic and social spheres and stated that the Administration of the Cameroons was gratified to find its efforts appreciated.

Incidents of April-May 1955: dissolution of certain political parties

11. The representative of the United Kingdom said that his delegation shared the profound regret which the Administering Authority must feel over the events of May 1955 which, on any reckoning, must have represented a serious set-back in the political progress of the country. The sombre but objective picture of these events given in the Visiting Mission's report showed with great clarity how easily the peaceful tenor of these relatively underdeveloped parts of the African continent could be seriously disturbed. He had the impression that the political equilibrium of the Territory had now to a notable measure been restored.

12. The representative of New Zealand noted the point of view of the Visiting Mission expressed in paragraph 125 of its report to the effect that the measures taken to deal with the May riots could not be regarded as a final solution of the problem - an unexceptionable point of view which was shared by the Administering Authority. His delegation welcomed the steps which the Administering Authority was taking to restore claim to the Territory. His delegation was prepared to support in the Council the comprehensive draft resolution on the subject drawn up by the Standing Committee on Petitions in document T/L.634. This made it unnecessary for him to deal at greater length with the unfortunate May incidents.
13. The representative of Burma considered that the May incidents were basically the outcome of political discontent among a considerable section of the politically conscious elements of the population. It seemed, therefore, to his delegation that the time had now come for adequate reforms such as the establishment of an executive council with an elected majority responsible to the Territorial Assembly and of a Territorial Assembly elected on a common roll and universal adult suffrage, enjoying full legislative powers.
14. The representative of Australia stated that the information given to the Council by the special representative, as well as the resolution which the Council had already adopted on the incidents of May 1955, left no doubt in the minds of most of the members of the Council regarding the responsibility for the events which had taken place. It had been made quite clear by the special representative that the incidents were provoked by the UPC, which, the Council had been told, had organized armed attacks upon the persons and property of members of opposing political groups as well as upon certain administration buildings such as prisons, police stations, etc. This sort of violence, of course, posed a difficult problem for the Administration of any territory, and the Council had heard about the actions which the local authority had been obliged to take to maintain order, of both by the normal precautions and measures, and the subsequent actions when numerically inferior police forces, acting under the authority of civilian officials, had found it necessary to fire in self-defence upon overwhelming numbers of attackers after having given the statutory warnings.

15. He noted with satisfaction that the vast majority of the persons arrested in connexion with the incidents had been brought to trial and that at the beginning of March 1956 only about 100 remained to come before the courts. He also noted with particular satisfaction the attitude of special tolerance which the Administering Authority had displayed towards persons participating in the incidents, as distinct from the ringleaders, who constituted a relatively small number of disaffected individuals.
16. The dissolution of three organizations in the Territory was a matter which the Administering Authority had clearly weighed very carefully. The evidence available would appear to confirm that the circumstances in the Territory at the time were such as to justify the Administering Authority in dissolving organizations which had embarked upon policies of violence. The policy of the Administering Authority with regard to freedom of association in general was evidenced by the fact that other political organizations still existing in the Territory had included in their political platforms major objectives found in the platform of the UPC particularly those of unification and independence of the Cameroons. Therefore dissolution of the UPC did not necessarily remove from the people of the Territory the opportunity of engaging lawfully through organization in pursuit of these basic political objectives to which the UPC overtly subscribed.
17. Disturbing features of the incidents had been the misuse to which the UPC and affiliated organizations had put the name and flag of the United Nations, and the embarkation of the UPC upon a career of violence aimed at intimidating political opposition not only from the Administering Authority but, what was rather more serious, from their fellow Cameroonians. Of course he also deplored the actions of other Cameroonian groups to the extent to which, whether under provocation or not, they had engaged in activities involving the use of force.
18. The representative of Australia again expressed the hope expressed in the resolution adopted by the Trusteeship Council the day before^{1/} that the Administering Authority's present policy of tranquilization, together with the continued and intensified pursuit of programmes of reform and general political development, would restore political activity to normalcy and bring to an end

^{1/} See document T/L.634, Annex, pp. 1-2, and T/PV.692, pp. 51-55.

the tensions which had recently characterized the political life of the Territory. In his view the resolution adopted on the report of the Standing Committee on Petitions covered the matter adequately and he would not consider it necessary for the Council to take any further action on this particular matter.

19. The representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics said that the events of May of last year were the most striking, though regrettable, of the past year, and that the Council would surely have to appraise them. There were a substantial number of casualties, among the indigenous inhabitants, against which armed police and military forces had been used, and surely these figures were not complete since the Administering Authority was unable to count up the killed and injured not taken by it. Many persons were arrested and were still under preliminary detention, others were hiding in the forests or neighboring Territories in fear of persecution. The Administering Authority had taken a number of measures limiting the right of the indigenous inhabitants of the Trust Territory: the right of freedom of assembly and the freedom of setting up organizations; the Administering Authority introduced restrictions to sending telegrams by the indigenous inhabitants and the right of petition to the United Nations had thus been infringed. The adoption of all these and other measures by the Administering Authority was explained by the circumstance the the Union des Populations du Cameroun, an organization which called for the unification of the Cameroons and independence for it, had allegedly organized an insurrection or riots. The Administering Authority said, continued the representative of the USSR, that these were revolutionary measures designed to change the existing structure by force and violence. But careful examination of the materials presented to the Council showed that the Administering Authority had not been able to give facts that would support these statements. In reply to some questions the special representative pointed out that there had been no attacks by Cameroonians on police stations or military depots for the purpose of seizing fire arms, that there had been no attempt to take over French organs of government in the Territory with a view to replace them by the Cameroonian ones, that the indigenous inhabitants had not tried to take by force the French Government organs in the Territory.

20. There was an organization of demonstration, attempts to guard the premises of some public organizations, sending delegations to the authorities. There were also some attempts in some places to release persons detained for participation in demonstrations. But this was preceded by a prohibition to hold meetings and the breaking up of meetings by armed forces, and the mass arrests of indigenous inhabitants in participation in meetings. Such measures were taken by the Administering Authority even before, in 1954, but they acquired a mass character in April and May of 1955, especially after the adoption on 22 April by a number of social organizations of a well-known declaration calling for the independence of the Cameroons.

21. The representative of the USSR pointed out that an analysis of the petitions and observations on them, indicated that the root of the May events lay in the fact that the Administering Authority felt some anxiety in connexion with the progress of the independence movement among the indigenous population. The intensification of that movement is part of the noticeable awakening of colonial and dependent peoples. Being unable to cope with this vast movement by making reforms or by correcting shortcomings repeatedly noted by the Council, the Administering Authority struck out at the indigenous organizations heading the independence movement among the indigenous population. The root of the trouble, therefore, was that the reforms undertaken by the Administering Authority had been insignificant, and did not meet the wishes of the indigenous population.

22. The representative of the USSR further observed that the Visiting Mission admitted that it had not examined these events fully. The Mission said that a number of persons had been afraid to express publicly this opinion before it in view of the atmosphere prevailing in the Territory. The Mission could not even count the petitions received, nothing to say that it could not consider them. The Mission did not take on itself the task to try to consider those events objectively and in detail. The representative of the USSR stated that the Mission hoped that after punishment had been meted out to the culprits a better atmosphere would arise in the Territory. But, he said, the point is not to mete out punishment to the culprits. Culprits could be found just as easily among the representatives of the Administering Authority. The point is that measures should be taken to satisfy the

needs of the indigenous inhabitants of the Territory. He felt that the disbandment of three social organizations of the indigenous inhabitants ran counter to the principles and provisions both of the Charter and of the Trusteeship Agreement. The measures taken by the Administering Authority were consequently ultra vires.

3. The representative of the USSR felt that it was essential to recommend to the Administering Authority that it should take all necessary measures to restore in the Trust Territory, in accordance with the United Nations Charter and the Trusteeship Agreement, the full and undiminished rights of the indigenous inhabitants to hold meetings, to set up public and social organizations so as to secure the enjoyment and exercise by the indigenous inhabitants of full democratic rights and freedoms. The Council would only do its bounden duty if it recommended that such measures in the Territory should be taken as quickly as possible.

4. The representative of Belgium stated that the UPC was a numerically unimportant political party, had used tendentious propaganda - an example of which he quoted - and had recourse to brutality and violence in implementing its programme and had received its own adherents. Although it had sent many petitions to the United Nations, the authenticity of these petitions had not yet been demonstrated. Moreover, the way it had abused the name of the United Nations and its use of the United Nations flag had been detrimental to the prestige of the World Organization and this should be censured. His delegation considered that there was ample justification for the decree dissolving the UPC on 13 July 1955. The Belgian delegation earnestly hoped that the Trusteeship Council would deplore the actions taken by the UPC and its affiliated organizations.

5. The representative of Guatemala stated that his delegation considered it difficult to determine the truth or falseness of many alleged facts in connexion with the May incidents and therefore could not pass judgement completely condemning completely exonerating certain political organizations, or even the actions of the Administering Authority. The repressive acts of the Administering Authority might have been extensive at the beginning as a psychological measure to maintain public order, but immediately afterwards, those measures should have been restricted

to the leaders who had misled the people and these leaders should have been brought before the courts. In any case, the Administering Authority should expedite the trials of those still held in order to determine whether they are guilty or innocent.

26. With reference to the dissolution of the UPC, the representative of Guatemala said that, while the subversive acts of individual leaders or political organizations could be punished, the political ideology itself is above such penalties. The dissolution of the UPC might create a political vacuum and the Administering Authority should allow free play for non-subversive political activities.

27. From the mass of documentation placed before the Council, which showed apparent unrest in the Territory, the Guatemalan delegation, in an attempt to diagnose the causes of the May disturbances concluded that they were to be found rooted in economic and social problems and that it was not simply a question of political ideology. Therefore, the Administering Authority ought to redouble its efforts for social justice for the masses and for the economic development of the Territory, supplementing the present political reforms with ever greater reforms in order to avoid future upsets in Cameroonian society. Thus the initiative of the Administering Authority with regard to the requirements of the population would keep peace in the Territory and help the people in their peaceful development.

28. The representative of India stated that, while the Council might be impatient about the advance towards self-government, it would be contrary to the Trusteeship Agreement and the whole conception of Trusteeship if any member of the Council were to express sympathy with any movement that unilaterally sought to terminate the Trusteeship altogether. He thought that this should be said so that there would be no misunderstanding in the minds of the indigenous inhabitants of the Trust Territory that what the Council was seeking to implement was nothing short of the international treaty. The Council had been told that a joint proclamation by one of these parties declaring the termination of the trusteeship status of a Territory and the establishment of a sovereign Cameroonian State had been issued. That would be against the Trusteeship Agreement. It would be usurping the power and the authority that, on the one hand, rested in the General Assembly of the United Nations and in the

Council, and, on the other hand, that was governed by the Trusteeship Agreement where it was to operate in conjunction with the Administering Authority.

29. With that outside limit, he had to express the fact that when there is a vast volume of discontent, while the responsibility for the maintenance of law and order had necessarily to rest with the authority that governed the State, whatever might be the character of the authority, he could not accept the view that the solution for these problems would be the suppression of that opinion, and he was distressed to find that the ~~consequences~~ and the impact of this suppression had extended not only to the people of the Territory, but also to the members of the Visiting Mission, an organ of the Trusteeship Council. Although the Administering Authority, under the Trusteeship Agreement and the Constitution of France, legitimately administered this Territory as an integral part of the territory of the metropolitan country itself, it was unthinkable to him that this competence could extend to the authority of the United Nations. He did not mean that, because the Visiting Mission went to the Territory, the Administering Authority was thereby called upon as a matter of legal right to withdraw its ban on these organizations, but if the ban still continued, in his view, there was a responsibility resting upon the Administration to allow this opinion to be fully communicated to the Visiting Mission. If the volume of opinion that was suppressed was insignificant, nothing would be lost by the articulation of it to the Mission. On the other hand, if it was overwhelmingly large, then there was all the more reason why the Mission should know about it.

30. This was a problem quite separate from the problem of law and order. The Administering Authority could argue a good case, in the opinion of the representative of India, by saying that irrespective of the rights and wrongs of the opinions held, the Administering Authority was responsible for the lives and property of the Territory and the remainder of the population, and that the Authority had in its wisdom to take what steps it might like and also to take the consequences. But, in many cases, negotiations had been made often with men whom the Authority had put into prison. Therefore, it was rather weakening to the position of the Administering Authority that the Visiting Mission found itself in a situation where half of a considerable part of this Territory were unable to communicate properly with the Mission. If the Visiting Mission were to go to the Territory and if it could only

see what was put up for it by the Administering Authority, then this Mission could not have fulfilled its responsibility. Therefore, in considering the report of the Mission as a whole, he had to take into account the fact that there was an absent member, namely, the parties that had been outlawed.

31. The representative of India then observed that the Fourth Committee of the General Assembly had received petitions from these outlawed organizations. With great respect to the Administering Authority, he regretted to note the adverse criticisms made of the action of the General Assembly in the Territory itself. Even in the Territory, the action of the General Assembly had had bad effects in relation to the Trusteeship Agreement. That was a responsibility that the General Assembly had to carry. For the Administering Authority to make public statements in these Territories which challenged the position of the Assembly or in some way reflected upon the trusteeship relation itself was a very bad practice. While the General Assembly could not set itself above the Trusteeship Agreement in so far as its relations with the Administering Authority were concerned, he submitted that the Administering Authority could not set itself above the General Assembly in these matters.

37. Finally, when the volume of political troubles that existed in the Territory reached the point where the Administering Authority felt that it could only maintain itself by the suppression of a degree of opinion, then it was a matter for reconsideration.

33. The representative of the Administering Authority, endorsing the view expressed by the Visiting Mission, stated that the political progress, which he hoped would not fall behind the economic and social progress, had been temporarily slowed down by the subversive activities of the UPC and its satellites and by the events of May 1955 which followed therefrom. The Council was able to assess their deep-rooted causes and their effects. This had been reflected in the resolution which the Council adopted upon the recommendation of the Standing Committee on Petitions - the resolution in which it had deplored the activities of certain political organizations as the result of which the Administering Authority had been called upon to take measures for their dissolution. To dispel the confusion which might remain in the minds of some representatives, the administrative measure had been

taken not because of the political programme of the UPC and its satellites, but because of the methods of violence which they had used, thereby disturbing public order. The Visiting Mission, and later several delegations, had expressed the view that the dissolution of these groups could not be considered as a final solution of the problems which the Territory faced. He assured the Council that the dissolution of the UPC and its satellite organizations had been dictated by circumstance, and was not a solution. It might even be said that the events of May 1955 could have the effect only of slowing down the development of the country. The French Government believed that the solution, on the morrow of the events, consisted of restoring calm and order, restoring confidence, restoring mutual understanding between the North and the South of the Territory, and pursuing the evolution that had been previously started towards the improvement of the living conditions of the indigenous inhabitants, the development of education at all levels, the training of indigenous personnel, the consolidation of democratic institutions existing in the Territory and the provision of an opportunity for the indigenous population to participate more widely and more effectively than before in the administration of public affairs.

34. The special representative of the Administering Authority stated that the riots of May 1955 provoked by the UPC indeed turned into open hostility what had merely been a consciousness of difference between the North and the South. The unrest which followed the riots was not, however, as serious as some members of the Council seemed to believe. For example, it was impossible for him to agree with those of the Council members who considered that the 35,000 petitions received by the Trusteeship Council were tangible proof of the gravity of the domestic situation in the Cameroons. By pushing this line of reasoning to the extreme, it could be argued that conditions were a hundred times worse than they had been two years previously in the Cameroons, since, in 1954, only 350 petitions had been sent to the United Nations. The Council knew on the basis of the report that had already been made that 95 per cent of the petitions came from the UPC, that many of them were simple statements one or two lines long and that hundreds of them were drafted by the same hand and written in the same ink. They were the very negation of the idea of a petition, they were a ridiculous product of the industry of the UPC and a material demonstration of its irresponsibility and nothing more.

Such was the opinion of the responsible local authorities about these petitions. He further expressed the hope that, in the interests of the Cameroons, this disease or delirium of petitions would remain confined to those who were at present suffering from it.

35. If the May riots had not been the object of a great deal of comment by the members of the Council, it was no doubt because its case was a bad one, and the special representative of the Administering Authority believed that the members of the Council were now convinced that the responsibility for the riots rested with the UPC. However, certain objections had been made to the dissolution of the party, and some delegations seemed to believe that the Administering Authority dissolved it because it advocated a political ideology of the extreme left or because it claimed immediate independence. He reiterated that the UPC and its affiliated bodies had been dissolved because, according to French law, any organization which sets up armed gangs or which uses arms had to be prohibited. The Marxist ideology of its leaders and its independence programme had been well known for six years, and the UPC could have continued to propound these ideas without risking any measures of prohibition. But when it threw armed gangs against its political adversaries and against the prisons and administrative offices, when it embarked upon a campaign of violence, it had outlawed itself. He could not, therefore, endorse the opinion expressed by certain delegations to the effect that the Administering Authority had restricted the freedom of opinion in the Territory.

36. The representative had said that it was inconceivable that the competence of the Visiting Mission should have been limited by the Administering Authority. The special representative stated that the Administering Authority had not in any way circumscribed the powers of the Visiting Mission; it had merely informed the Visiting Mission of the legal status of the UPC and of the legal consequences of that status. He stated that he could point out to the Council that if the Administering Authority had not acted as it had it would not have been carrying out the obligations imposed upon it by the Trusteeship Agreement, because it would have failed to apply article 4 of the Agreement according to which it must govern the Territory according to the laws of France. There existed

for every Government a rule which was so imperative that it did not appear in any text, namely the obligation to respect its own laws. Legality could not be overlooked for a month, whatever the importance of the visit of the Mission. The Administering Authority had not forbidden anyone from explaining or demonstrating to the Visiting Mission the supposed need for immediate independence, it had not prohibited the expression of any opinion, it had merely dispelled any ambiguity by reminding the Visiting Mission that the organization called the Union des Populations du Cameroun had been dissolved and that any activity on its part had been prohibited by law. This had not been done for the sake of making arrests, but in order to avoid having to make them. This, of course, had involved difficulties for the Visiting Mission, as well as for the local authorities. He had himself been entrusted with the difficult and rather contradictory task of ensuring respect for the law and of facilitating contacts between the Visiting Mission and the population and was extremely well aware of the assiduity, high competence and conscientiousness with which the Visiting Mission had performed its duties in the circumstances.

37. The special representative added that in the mind of the local authorities there was no connexion whatsoever between the need for political reforms which had been studied as far back as 1954 and the riots which started in May 1955 by the UPC. On the contrary, it might even be said that the reforms already made and those under study - and not their absence - lead the UPC to riot, fearing, as it did, that the few worthwhile pretexts which it had introduced into campaigns of agitation would soon disappear as well as that in the municipal elections its small representative value would be demonstrated. The majority of the population of the Cameroons showed a considerable political maturity in refusing to associate itself with the subversive activities of the UPC. The Administering Authority refused to establish any relationship of cause and effect between the riots provoked by a minority group and the continued prosecution of the political evolution in the Cameroons towards self-government.

II. POLITICAL ADVANCEMENT

Status of the Territory and its inhabitants

38. The representative of Syria pointed out that although the Administering Authority regarded the Cameroons as an Associated Territory under the French Constitution of 1946, that instrument did not define the status of Associated Territories and their relationship with the French Union. Although these territories were regarded as parts of the French Union they did not constitute a part of the French Republic, and the Constitution did not define the position of Associated Territories as it did that of overseas departments and territories. As far as he had been able to learn no legislation had ever been enacted to make the Trust Territories under French administration into Associated Territories, and therefore it was wrong to say that the French Cameroons was an Associated Territory.

39. His concern, however, was for the future as well as for the present. The Council had requested the Administering Authority to transmit to it a concise statement as to how it evaluated the effect of this association on the future development of the Territory. A question put to the special representative had elicited no definite information on this point. Moreover, the Visiting Mission had asked two questions in writing of the Administering Authority, one on the relationship of the Territory with the French Union and the other on the subject of Cameroonian citizenship. The Mission had been told that the most complete information would be given at the opportune moment, but had not received that information, nor was the Council yet in possession of it. The representative of Syria believed that the people of the Cameroons must know where they were going, what the French Union was and what it offered them, whether in fact it offered them real self-government or independence. It was the duty of the Council to obtain this information, and the Council should recommend to the Administering Authority not to delay further in its submission, which might possibly take place at the nineteenth session of the Council.

40. With regard to the status of the inhabitants the Council had noted the statement of the representative of France to the effect that studies were being carried out on this subject. It appeared to the representative of Syria that the progress made had not been remarkable, and he was of the opinion that the

Council should recommend to the Administering Authority that it speed up the pace of these studies and have consultation with the Territorial Assembly and local bodies to ascertain their views on the subject (T/PV.693, pp. 4-7).

41. The representative of Burma stated that his delegation was aware that the position of the associated territories in the French Union was left undefined in 1946 since France intended to make the status of Trust Territories as associated territories dependent upon the International Trusteeship System. Referring to the fact that the Trusteeship Council had not received from the Administering Authority a concise statement as to how it evaluated the effect of the present association with the French Union on the future political development of the Territory, he said that the delegation of Burma considered that the Council should continue to urge the Administering Authority to furnish this evaluation. Similarly, with respect to the studies on the status of the inhabitants, the representative of Burma noted that the Trusteeship Council had not as yet been informed as to the results of these studies. His delegation felt that the views of the Territorial Assembly and of local organizations would aid the Administering Authority in making a full study of the possibility of establishing a Cameroonian citizenship.
42. Concerning the participation of the Territory in the legislative process through representation in the French Parliament, the representative of Burma stated that his delegation thought it a matter for serious consideration whether this form of participation was desirable from the point of view of the attainment of the objectives of self-government or independence for the Territory and whether these objectives would not be better achieved if the Territory were to carry out its own legislative process directly by the development of its own local representative institutions.
43. The representative of Guatemala stated that his delegation could not understand exactly the reasons given by the special representative as to why the institution in any form of Cameroonian citizenship was now impossible. It felt that the Council, repeating its recommendation of the fifteenth session on this matter, ought at least to call upon the Administering Authority to include in its next report a more detailed study of the reasons why the Administering Authority felt it impossible to implement the Council's recommendation regarding establishing a Cameroonian citizenship.

44. With reference to the fact that the Cameroons formed part of the French Union as an associated territory, the representative of Guatemala gave the opinion of his delegation that the Cameroons was not simply being administered as part of the territory of France, but that it was being governed as a part of a political union - a circumstance which had and would have grave repercussions on the future political development of the Territory; that the Administering Authority governed the Territory as if it were an overseas territory over which France claimed absolute sovereignty; that, instead of having the indigenous inhabitants participate in the legislative process through their representation in the French Parliament, it would be more appropriate - if one wished to encourage participation in legislation - to achieve the same end by granting greater powers to local political organs and broadening their democratic basis through more universal suffrage. Therefore, the Guatemalan delegation was of the opinion first, that it was not possible to prepare a Territory for self-government or for a state of freedom which would allow them eventually to choose their own political destiny if they were not simply administered, but governed as part of a political union; and second, that no matter how often this subject had been debated in the Trusteeship Council in the past, the problem remained and the Council had to face up to it and issue the appropriate recommendation to the Administering Authority.

45. The special representative of the Administering Authority said that he did not understand very well what would be the benefit for the Cameroonians of the establishment of Cameroonian citizenship before the status of the country as a Trust Territory came to an end. He first asked if, in the domestic field, that involved certain important political freedoms such as a single college, universal suffrage, greater autonomy, independence and pointed out that these are matters which the Trusteeship Council had discussed, was discussing and would discuss in the future; moreover, some of these steps would be taken in the very near future.

46. If, then, domestic political rights were not involved, were rights outside the Territory involved - passports, the protection of Cameroonians abroad? In this connexion, he pointed out that for the duration of the trusteeship status, it would be French seals and French visas that would be stamped on the Cameroonians' travel.

documents. He therefore concluded that, as a practical plan, he could not see what would be the practical consequences of Cameroonian citizenship for the Cameroonians.

47. Referring to the place held by the Cameroons within the French Union, the special representative believed that certain delegations in the Trusteeship Council were concerned because the French Constitution was silent about the status of a Trust Territory within that Union: he stated that a Trust Territory, obviously not being bound by that which the Constitution did not say about it, was therefore administered according to texts which did speak of it, that is the Charter and the Trusteeship Agreement. He could understand criticism if the Constitution of 1946 integrated the Cameroons within the French system but was unable to comprehend why reproach should be voiced because that Constitution was silent on the question.

General political situation

48. The representative of New Zealand considered that not the least of the problems confronting the Territory was the disparity of development between the North and the South and the poor relations which exist between their populations. This situation had been exacerbated by the activities of the proscribed political parties. He regretted to learn that the reputation of the United Nations also suffered as a result of the decision by the Fourth Committee to grant a hearing to members of the UPC at the tenth session of the General Assembly. He welcomed the steps which the Administering Authority was taking to restore calm in the Territory and trusted that this would include a campaign to restore confidence in that part of the population which had been led by the Fourth Committee's action to this misconceived view of the true role of the United Nations.

49. The representative of China stated that his delegation agreed with the Visiting Mission that the Administration should take vigorous measures not only to revive the feelings of national consciousness which had previously begun to appear, but also to increase contacts among all the people of the Territory.

50. The representative of Syria pointed out that, unfortunately, the unity of the people of the North and of the South of the Territory was still lacking. He very much regretted this fact since the Territory afforded the greatest opportunity for its inhabitants through its vast resources, its natural agricultural wealth and its geographic location. However, this lack of national consciousness

would certainly retard the political progress of the Territory, and the lack of understanding, if it continued, would undoubtedly separate the people from each other and create a sense of bitterness which would be hard to remove.

51. The representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics stated that with regard to the political structure of the Territory, there was little that could be said this year, inasmuch as essentially the system had remained quite the same as in the previous year. There were a number of points which the Council should look into, such as the matter of reforms which have been promised. Since the eleventh session, the Council had repeatedly made recommendations calling for an expansion of the rights of the Territorial Assembly, the establishment of a single electoral college, the introduction of universal suffrage. At the thirteenth session of the Council in particular a statement was made by the representative of France to the effect that a new bill was under consideration on this matter. At the fifteenth session, this recommendation was reiterated. The Council was now at its seventeenth session and it would be embarrassing to repeat this recommendation again.

52. But to repeat a recommendation which the Council had so often made, stated the representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, was not even the whole trouble. From the documents which were available to the Council, reforms such as the matter of the establishment of the Government Council, the expansion of the rights of the Territorial Assembly, the organization of local councils in the Territory, etc., were already becoming obsolescent. The Territory had gone further in its political development. The population had become more politically conscious, and the reforms which would be enacted, he hoped during the next year, would simply formalize a stage which the political development of the Territory had already traversed three or four years ago. Consequently, the Council should not only reiterate its recommendations of past sessions but it should urge the Administering Authority to review these reforms with a view to rendering them more forward looking.

53. The representative of India stated that the Government of this Trust Territory might be described as an authoritarian Metropolitan rule tempered by advice and consent, by advice and consultation of certain organs set up by the Metropolitan

authority itself and by such impact as the discussions in the United Nations or world opinion made on them. He drew attention to the fact that the Trusteeship Agreement was signed in December 1946 and the present constitution was dated in October of that year, and added that in the nine years of trust administration there had been no constitutional advance. He pointed out, however, that this matter had been under the Administering Authority's consideration for some time and the principle of reform had been accepted. He considered that at the present moment the whole progress was somewhat in suspense. Since it considered that the problem of reform was related to other questions under consideration by the Council with regard to the attainment of self-government for the Territory, it was the view of the Indian delegation that, in any recommendation which the Council might make, the Administering Authority should be requested to implement reforms of a character which would enable the General Assembly to accept the position that the Territory was rapidly advancing toward the establishment of self-government or independence.

54. He was happy to see that, in the report on the Cameroons under French administration the position taken with regard to the relationship between the Trust Territory and the metropolitan area was somewhat different from statements usually made before the Council on behalf of the French Government.

The representative of India said that his delegation was disposed to believe and entertained the hope that there was a trend of opinion in all parties concerned in this matter which could lead to considerable progress and to the establishment of independence and self-government in the Territory at almost the same time that independence or self-government became an established fact in the neighbouring areas.

55. The representative of France stated that, in order to avoid the slowness of parliamentary procedures, the Government of the French Republic had asked Parliament to give it powers to introduce reforms in the institutions, the administrative structures and the economic organization of the territories under French administration.

Development of representative, executive and legislative organs and the extension of their powers

(a) Territorial Administration and Territorial Assembly

56. The representative of New Zealand noted that the Administering Authority's plans to extend the powers of the Territorial Assembly and to establish the Government Council remain unchanged and would be put into effect as soon as the proposals had been approved by the French legislature. He considered that the institution of these reforms would be a major undertaking.

57. The representative of China hoped that speedy consideration would be given to the bill pending in the French Parliament which would extend to powers of the Territorial Assembly and hoped further that the Administering Authority would see its way to granting powers of a genuinely legislative character to the Territorial Assembly.

58. The representative of Syria wished further clarification from the special representative on the proposed Conseil de gouvernement, information regarding its functions, its membership, its powers and responsibilities, the main provisions of the bill which was before the French Parliament, and finally whether the reforms contemplated were adequate. In this connexion he was of the opinion that political reform should be accelerated so that the people might enjoy what their neighbours had been enjoying. Elements of discontent would thus certainly diminish, and co-operation between the Administering Authority and the people would be strengthened and enhanced.

59. He stated that the functions of the Territorial Assembly continued to be to discuss and approve the budget and to deliberate on certain financial, economic and administrative matters, as well as to submit comments to the French Government on all matters affecting the Territory with the exception of political questions. The special representative had informed the Council that the Administration felt that political observations and suggestions should be made at another level, by the elected representatives of the Territory in the French Parliament. The representative of Syria pointed out, however, that there were only four representatives of the Cameroons in the French Parliament. He sought information from the special representative as to whether they were really effective in

discussing political matters of the Territory, whether they were not elected on the basis of electoral laws totally different from those of France, and on the extent to which they were helping the Territory to achieve self-government or independence.

60. The powers of the Territorial Assembly remained those defined ten years ago. For many years the Council had made recommendations favouring an extension of these powers. The Administering Authority had informed the Council that this question had been under consideration since 1950, and in 1955 it had stated that a bill which had been reported under preparation the year before had not yet been submitted to the French Parliament. The Visiting Mission had been informed that the bill had been submitted to the French National Assembly in September 1955 but that the submission of several amendments had delayed the taking of a vote. The representative of Syria requested information regarding the present fate of the bill. Referring to the disappointment expressed by the Visiting Mission that the long-promised law had not yet been passed, he questioned whether this delay might not be a factor contributing to discontent.

61. Recapitulating the principal features of the proposed legislation, the representative of Syria emphasized that if the proposed legislation were passed, the Territorial Assembly would still have only the power of discussion of the subjects within its competence, and that the discussion of political questions was not mentioned at all in the bill. Were these the political reforms which had taken ten years to be presented in a bill to the French Parliament, and were they the desired remedies for the Territory?

62. The French Parliament was vested with the right to make laws concerning the political and administrative structure of the Territory, the very wide field of public liberties and criminal legislation. But the Territorial Assembly, even if the bill was passed, would have much less power than its counterpart in Togoland. It could still only function within the framework of the laws enacted by the French Parliament and the decrees issued by the Administering Authority; with the long-awaited reforms the Territorial Assembly would be engaged, apart from approving the budget and discussing the particular matters within its competence, in making rules and regulations or regulating purely local matters too trivial for the French Parliament to be concerned with.

63. It was the considered opinion of the Syrian delegation that a much bolder step should be taken by the Administering Authority to make this organ a legislative assembly even in the most modest sense of the word rather than keep it in its present condition. In this connexion he suggested that the assimilation of the Cameroons to an overseas territory was perhaps preventing it from being given proper executive and legislative organs and was in fact hindering the objectives of the Trusteeship System. There was nothing to prevent the Administering Authority by simple administrative act from removing the Trust Territory from the influence of the French Constitution.

64. He therefore proposed that the Council should recommend that no provision of the Constitution should stand in the way of granting the Territorial Assembly full legislative powers since article 72 of that Constitution applied only to the overseas territories. The Council should further express the hope that the proposed reforms be augmented by additional reforms in keeping with the pace of political progress in West Africa. The Council should also note that the Territorial Assembly was not elected by universal suffrage and had no legislative powers, and should express the hope that such powers would be granted to it progressively and that it would be elected by universal adult suffrage.

65. The representative of Burma considered the delay in passing the bill which would enlarge the still very limited powers of the Territorial Assembly and establish an executive council to be very regrettable. It was debatable whether the reforms envisaged by this bill, even if it were now passed, would adequately meet present day requirements of the Trust Territory since these reforms should keep in pace with the aspirations of the people and with the rate of progress achieved in neighbouring Territories.

66. The representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics stated that the Council should urge the Administering Authority to extend even further the rights of the Territorial Assembly and to give to the proposed Government Council and its members such powers and prerogatives which would be commensurate perhaps with the rights of ministers, or something like cabinet members, although of course there are certain distinctions. The Administering Authority would surely wish to consider these matters. He added further that it might be urged that this again would require as many years as were required for the elaboration of the reforms which were still under consideration and which had not yet been enacted. Of course this should be avoided.

67. The representative of India stated that the executive authority, which was really the keystone of all administration, whatever might be said about the supremacy of legislatures, was still fully in the hands of the Metropolitan Power. The popular impact made upon the central authority was by means of an advisory council, composed of four African notables and ten others who presumably were citizens of Metropolitan France, since there were six officials and four French citizens. It was not impossible, but he thought it highly improbable, that one of these officials might be an African. Taking into account this very small minority of Africans in the advisory Council during the last ten years, their limited functions, and the fact that the Council was merely advisory, he found it quite clear that the impact which African opinion could have upon the administration was very limited, except for the paternal response that any particular administrator might make to local opinion.

68. The Council, however, should look at the present situation, which was governed, among other considerations, by the pending reforms. On 23 March 1956 the French Parliament had voted by 477 votes to 99 to approve a measure giving the Government the right to reorganize the administration of certain dependent territories. Presumably this action also applied to the Cameroons. The reforms envisaged included the elimination of separate European and native voting, the transformation of consultative and local assemblies into true deliberative bodies, and the provisions of easier access to the public services by the indigenous inhabitants. He wished to draw attention to the fact that the promulgation of these reforms at the present stage indicated a vast change of opinion in the metropolitan country and in the policy of the Government in regard to these matters. The Trusteeship Council in its debates should attempt to give momentum to these forces rather than be cynical about them.

69. The pending reforms, themselves, which had been proposed nearly a year ago, in May 1955, were still in suspense. In view of the decision just taken by a substantial majority in the French Parliament, giving the Government the right to reorganize the administration of certain dependent territories, and of the fact that in the Trust Territory itself there was a powerful national movement whose suppression had called for the use of very considerable forces by the Administering Authority, the representative of India thought it useful to point out that such steps as were taken must be adequate to meet the situation.

The pending reforms contemplated the establishment of a Government Council. Presumably the new Council would help in government and might therefore be more than a mere advisory council. It was to consist of four elected and four nominated members, but it still appeared to the representative of India that the impact of public opinion on the elected element was limited, since over the four elected and four nominated members would be the authority of the High Commissioner. He therefore wished to point out that, while the pending reforms might have been adequate in the circumstances of 1955, or might have been all that French public opinion would agree to at that time, in the present context they were not adequate. He hoped that a statement attributed to one of the French statesmen speaking in Parliament to the effect that the Government should take steps in time to permit the avoidance of serious conflict would be taken to heart; there was always great advantage in meeting national aspirations more than half way.

70. He felt that the constitution of the proposed Government Council should consist either of elected representatives or of those responsible to an elected legislature. Moreover, the extension of its powers, as proposed by the 1955 proposals, was inadequate, since these proposals merely transferred more departments to the Council. He felt that the powers to be allowed the Government Council should be much wider than at present and should not exclude the discussion of political and constitutional questions. It should represent an intermediate stage before the Territory passed on to self-government.

71. The representative of Guatemala stated that his delegation felt that the Trusteeship Council should take note of the fact that a draft bill lay before the French Parliament to broaden the Territorial Assembly's powers and to set up an Executive Council; at the same time it should express the hope that the bill would be promulgated as soon as possible and repeat its recommendation of the fifteenth session asking that the Territorial Assembly be empowered to discuss political matters especially with regard to the internal affairs of the Territory.

72. The special representative of the Administering Authority referring to the criticism voiced in the Trusteeship Council of the draft bill tabled in the French Parliament regarding the Government Council and the extension of the powers of the Territorial Assembly, stated that, inasmuch as the final text, the details of the reforms were not as yet known, he regretted that they should already be in any way considered as insufficient or outmoded.

(b) Regional, Urban and Local Administration

73. The representative of the United Kingdom noted the rapid advance in the field of local Government by the increase of rural mixed communes from seventeen in 1954 to fifty-eight at the present time, whereas three of the principal towns of the Territory had now been raised to the status of fully-fledged municipalities.

74. The representative of New Zealand stated that his delegation was impressed to learn of the extent of progress made in 1955, particularly in the field of local Government where wide-spread reforms had been instituted in the Southern regions. His delegation was pleased to note that the status of three communes mixtes urbaines had been raised in November 1955 to communes de plein exercice. Another development which he felt should be welcomed by the Council was the reorganization of eight of the remaining communes so that the municipal bodies are re-elected by a single college of electors.

75. He considered that the creation of a specific Government agency (Bureau de commune) to direct the development of these local Government organizations was an important development which the Council should, in the view of his delegation, recognize and encourage.

76. The representative of Syria was glad to note that three of the mixed communes would be transformed into communes de plein exercice, each with an elected municipal council and mayor elected by that Council. He noted with interest that eight more mixed communes would shortly have municipal councils elected by a single college and completed by two councillors nominated by the High Commissioner. He expressed the hope that their powers would be extended as soon as possible.

77. He also noted with interest that fifty-one rural mixed communes constituted on the basis of a sub-division, an administrative post or a traditional native community had been established in the South with nominated mayors. Seven rural mixed communes had been established on the basis of chiefdoms with the chief as president. He wished in this particular case to commend the efforts of the Administering Authority and to express the hope that the powers of the communes would be extended and that their number would be increased.

78. He regretted however, that in the North vigorous steps had not as yet been taken to develop local political institutions. The Council, in spite of the efforts of the Administering Authority, should recommend that further efforts to modernize and widen the base of local political institutions should be tried.

79. The representative of Italy said that his delegation was glad to note the measures taken by the Administering Authority to increase the powers and responsibilities of the indigenous inhabitants in this field and hoped that the movement would be continued. He added that the broadening of the bases of the local political institutions should be unreservedly encouraged, although in this process it was desirable to ensure a well-ordered evolution.

80. The representative of Burma believed that in the sphere of regional administration sufficient information was not available as to the functioning of this administration. He hoped that the Administering Authority in its next and succeeding reports would give information, for example, as to how the regional administration actually functions in view of the fact that the communes are being gradually democratized and that the urban communes would soon become fully elected bodies with elected mayors and full powers of municipal councils.

81. While noting that the development of local Government institutions in the South was impressive and commendable, he considered that in the North conditions appeared to remain as before. Since dangers lurked in the uneven development of two parts of a Territory, he expressed the hope that the Administering Authority would give serious attention to the early introduction of local government institutions in the North.

82. The representative of Belgium said that the Council was doubtless satisfied to learn of the considerable progress made in the organization of the communes over the last two years, a progress revealed by the fact that the number of African electors had increased from 50,000 to 850,000 in seven years.

83. The special representative of the Administering Authority regretted that the rapidity of the evolution of communes in the South had not achieved more recognition in the Trusteeship Council, since the Administering Authority considered that the development of municipal institutions in the whole southern part of the Territory had represented in 1955 an event of capital importance in the life of the Territory.

84. The representative of Syria stated that as far as the traditional structure of the indigenous society was concerned, the chiefs still represented a source of Native authority. It was through them that the chief regional officers and the

chief sub-divisional officers exercised administrative control over the indigenous population. They were chosen by notables according to traditions and acted as judges in the customary tribunals, census takers and tax collectors, and might perform other functions. The representative of Syria found this system far from democratic. Although sympathizing with the Administering Authority in their difficult task, especially in the North, he nevertheless believed that the authority exercised by the chiefs should be modernized and taken over in the near future by democratic local government bodies composed of paid officers.

85. The representative of Burma considered that it was necessary to adapt the present organization of chiefdoms to the needs of the changing times. He said that it was most regrettable that the bill for the implementation of the Council's recommendations on the reorganization of the chiefdoms still remained unadapted.

86. The representative of Australia stated that although much remained to be done, especially in the North where the problems posed by ancient custom and tradition made progress slower than in the southern areas, the continuing expansion and popularization of councils of notables and other types of representative organs, with the resulting limitation of autocratic rule by traditional leaders, was worthy of commendation.

87. The representative of Guatemala said his delegation considered that the Trusteeship Council should repeat its earlier recommendations to the effect that the Administering Authority should take every necessary measure to ensure the progressive democratization of traditional structures. It realized that considerable time was required for the complete implementation of such recommendations but that at least the process could be started. Therefore it was hoped that, by the next session of the Council, his delegation might have further details relating to the democratization of the traditional or customary chiefdoms. The suggestion was made that, in the course of transforming this customary structure, a division or delegation of powers might be resorted to and that experiments similar to those made in other parts of Africa might be undertaken.

88. The special representative of the Administering Authority stated that the status of the tribal chiefs constituted a field in which evolution had not yet progressed in the North as far as in other areas. However, the democratization of the northern chiefdoms was a long-range task not to be completed in a few months, or perhaps even in a few years. The customs of the North were those of a robust

society, and no law or decree could do away with them. The Administering Authority of course intended to speed up the evolution of society in that area, but it would be just as dangerous to try to democratize too rapidly the Councils of the Sultans or the Lamidos as it would be to immobilize and crystallize their present stage of evolution by promulgating a law which would inevitably give legal consecration to institutions which were still feudal in nature and which the Administering Authority was trying to modify.

Administrative services; training and appointment of indigenous persons for positions of responsibility in the Administration

89. The representative of Syria stated that the number of Europeans in the top echelon of the civil service was still high. The Administering Authority should intensify its efforts to train more Africans to assume positions of responsibility. The Council should recommend that a civil service be established for the Territory as soon as possible so that the inhabitants could begin to participate not only in the administration of their country, but also in the law-making process, which was one of the principal objectives of the Trusteeship System.

90. The representative of Italy considered that the Africanization of the administrative services was progressing at a satisfactory rate and that it was an encouraging sign that the proportion of Africans was growing constantly at the cost of the quota of foreign-born officials. He thought that the Administering Authority was fully aware of the need to intensify this process of Africanizing also the senior administrative personnel.

91. The representative of Burma said that the need for more Africans in the senior administrative service, which the Council had already emphasized, still remained.

92. The representative of Australia noted that the Africanization of the civil service had made further progress in the year under review, and that the growing capacity of the educational system of the Territory had made important contributions to this progress. The particular attention which the Administering Authority was devoting to the specialized training of Africans for entrance into the civil service or for promotion within the service deserved the approval of the Council.

Development of adult suffrage and direct elections

93. The representative of the United States of America said that his delegation looked forward with expectation to the institution of the single electoral college which the representative of France informed the Council would be effective in the very near future.
94. He felt that the Council as a whole was pleased by the increase in the number of electors from 50,000 to more than 840,000 and hoped that the Council of the Republic would soon take action on the draft law which would give universal suffrage to the Territory.
95. The representative of the United Kingdom noted with satisfaction that the elections which had just taken place were held on the basis of an electorate of more than 843,000 African electors.
96. The representative of New Zealand found it a healthy and encouraging sign that during 1955 the number of registered electors rose from 630,000 to more than 840,000 at the time of the legislative elections of January 1956.
97. The representative of China said that his delegation was glad to hear that a bill, now pending in the French Parliament regarding the single college system, would probably be passed far in advance of the time of the next elections to the Territorial Assembly and that thenceforth the elections would be conducted entirely on the basis of the single college system.
98. The representative of Syria recommended that a common roll based on universal adult suffrage be introduced in the Territory. The Council should express the hope that electoral reforms now pending in Paris would be enacted very shortly.
99. The representative of Burma found that the increase in the number of electors from 50,000 to 750,000 in the course of the last six years was impressive, but considered that the need for a common roll on the basis of adult suffrage had still to be met.
100. The representative of Guatemala said that his delegation hoped that the bill now before the French Parliament which would provide for a single electoral college in the elections to the Territorial Assembly and to the Assembly of the French Union would be brought into force as soon as possible; in the meantime, universal suffrage should be established without granting greater rights to French citizens; certain requirements should be simplified so that there can be no unfair discrimination.

101. The representative of India, referring to the sixteen categories of voters, stated that, while these included a considerable part of the population, there lay in the system an attempt to work political power from the top to the bottom rather than from the bottom to the top. He found it rather sad to note that the Administering Authority had not seen its way to making use of the comparatively broad electorate that had been established. He observed, however, that there was very nearly universal suffrage in this Territory although it is limited by the sixteen categories to which the vote is accorded. The near goal of universal suffrage would be reached when all voting qualifications such as holding property, honours, titles and other similar things had been removed.

102. The representative of France said that the French Parliament had been asked to give the Government of the French Republic powers to set up in the territories under French administration an electoral system based on a single electoral college and on universal adult suffrage and that there was good reason to hope these measures would be introduced soon. He believed that it would be premature to discuss them before they were adopted, but their importance might be envisaged if one considered that the Cameroons under French administration, along with Togoland under French administration would be one of the first countries in Africa to introduce real universal adult suffrage.

103. The special representative of the Administering Authority, referring to the numerical growth in the Territory's electorate in the past seven years and to the very probable introduction this year of universal suffrage, said that the Administering Authority and the Trusteeship Council considered that the country could and should take this final step; the same applied to the single electoral college.

104. The representative of Guatemala, referring to the shortage of African personnel in the administration of justice, said that his delegation would ask that special attention be given to measures which would stimulate interest in a law career for the indigenous inhabitants; the salaries might be improved, the judicial cadres might be reorganized.

105. The representative of New Zealand considered that the Administering Authority was also to be commended for the direct relationship which its services were establishing with the individual African producers in order to improve the standards of living as well as levels of production.

106. The representative of China considered that there was a number of spheres in which energetic measures had still to be taken in order to further the programme of economic development - measures such as the increase of forest reserves and reafforestation, the construction of more roads and bridges and the creation of stabilization funds for the production of export crops.

107. The representative of Syria was of the opinion that the Territory has made very satisfactory progress in the economic field. He noted with appreciation the efforts of the Administering Authority and of the people to develop the vast agricultural and animal wealth of the Territory, including its forests.

108. He found the cultivation of cotton and rice and the improvement of livestock and pasturage in the North encouraging and hoped they were promising. He noted with satisfaction the improvement of crops and natural resources in the South.

109. He considered, however, that the potentialities of the Territory were unlimited and that what has been done up to the present moment was only a beginning. Greater and more diversification of crops should be continued on a large scale, and he believed that both the Administering Authority and the inhabitants should co-operate to the fullest extent to bring about the desired results. The fact remained that the majority of the indigenous people were still subsistence farmers, in spite of the efforts exerted in this field and therefore much remained to be done.

110. The Visiting Mission had seen evidence of the increasing participation of the people in the development of their economic life, especially through the activities of the petit équipement rural. These rural enterprises were certainly welcome, and he was extremely gratified to see that about 50 per cent of the capital belonged to the indigenous inhabitants. He trusted that this participation would continue to increase in the future.

111. The representative of Italy noted that the Territory had made considerable progress within its relative possibilities. He said that his delegation found particularly interesting the Visiting Mission's statement to the effect that the indigenous population was participating ever more actively in the economic life especially in agriculture through the so-called petit équipement rural.

112. The representative of Burma observed that the Visiting Mission was favourably impressed by the efforts made to exploit economic resources by development of hydroelectric power, diversification of crops, improvement of livestock and pasturage and improvement of the quality of cash crops such as cocoa, coffee and bananas.

113. With reference to rural development schemes, he was pleased to note the increasing participation of indigenous inhabitants and commended the territorial administration, the communes and the people for their part in them. He hoped that there would be further development in this field.

114. The representative of Australia stated that in the economic field the Visiting Mission had, generally speaking, recorded favourable impressions. Remarkable strides had been taken by the Administration in the diversification of agricultural production and the expansion of production for local consumption and for export. All evidence seemed to indicate that the Administering Authority had been most successful to date in its policy of increasing the participation of the indigenous people in the economic life of their Territory.

115. The representative of Guatemala stated that with regard to economic development per se, from the point of view of its structure the Cameroons under French administration seemed to continue to be essentially agricultural. He observed that there was no data as to national income which would allow a picture of the situation being drawn up. From the documentation which was before the Council, he saw that employment for most of the active population - approximately 40 per cent of the total - was to be found in agriculture, livestock-raising and in forestry. From the point of view of the orientation of production, it was evident in the light of the data available that most of the production of the monetary sector of the economy was devoted to international trade in which France occupied a very important place. Thus it was that 62 per cent of the value of the imports in 1954 was provided by France and the 38 per cent remaining was provided by countries

from various monetary zones, and so it was that 52 per cent of the volume of the exports in the same year were destined for France and the 48 per cent remaining were destined for various monetary zones. These two aspects would give an idea of the characteristic situation of the economy in the Territory. It was a productive economy producing raw materials for overseas trade, principally directed towards France.

116. The representative of Guatemala deduced therefore that the raising of the standard of living of the inhabitants depended upon the capacity of the Territory to pay for the necessary imports, and this in turn depended upon the availability of foreign markets and upon the prices of products, prices which could not be controlled by the Territory. He was not necessarily expressing a criticism here, because it seemed that under-developed countries had to pass through this stage in their economic evolution, because capital goods had to be imported. So long as there was no large local industry to make use of the natural resources of the Territory, the latter could not aspire to an economic structure which would most directly serve the interests of the indigenous population and operate to their advantage, so that they could enjoy a larger income, both total and per capita. The only danger was that those responsible for the economic and social development of this African Territory might attempt to perpetuate the present state of affairs, which would be prejudicial if it were static - in other words, they might do very little to change the situation which was characteristic of a colonial economy. Finally, he felt that private capital investment, particularly as a means of accelerating the rate of economic development of the Territory, should be encouraged, but at the same time the economic sovereignty of the inhabitants of the Territory should be guarded.

Développement of adequate public revenue

(a) Public finance and taxation

117. The representative of Syria stated that the Council had been told that the financial resources of the Territory could not meet its budgetary needs unless the Administering Authority gave assistance. The Administering Authority had explained the reason for this situation, but assistance alone was in his opinion inadequate and would keep the economy of the Territory in a very weak position.

What was needed, in effect, was a noticeable increase in production so that the Territory could undertake all the responsibilities on its own. Great efforts should be exerted in this direction so that the viability of the Territory could be assured.

118. The representative of Australia stated that, as in the case of other Trust Territories, local budgetary resources were quite incapable of bearing the cost of development investment. Very considerable contributions had been made in the past by FIDES and other organizations, and the Visiting Mission expected, presumably with good reason, that increased revenues would in time accrue to the Territory from the capital investments that had already been made. Nevertheless, the increasing productivity of the people would seem to justify a review by the Administering Authority of the tax structure of the Territory so as to give the people themselves a greater opportunity to contribute, through taxation, to their own development. This problem must be solved sooner or later.

119. The representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics noted with some concern the taxation problem. Over the past few years the prices paid to producers for agricultural products had gone down. At the same time, taxation rates had gone up. The price of cocoa in 1953 was 81 francs per kilo: in 1955 the price had gone down to 61 francs per kilo. For coffee the price paid to the producer in 1953 was 165 francs, and that had gone down to 114 francs. The taxation rate in the same period, however, particularly in the Eséka subdivision, had risen from 900 francs to 1,545 francs in 1955. The special representative had pointed out that this increase in the taxation rate was small, but in the light of the fact that prices for agricultural products had gone down, in keeping with the general fall in world prices, he submitted that it was rather incongruous. He felt that the Administering Authority's attention should be drawn to this point, and that the Council should recommend it to review the taxation system and lower the rate wherever circumstances warrant. According to petitions received at Headquarters, complaints by the population relating to high and increasing taxation rates had been numerous.

120. The representative of India noted that the amount of capital investment is not very high in the Territory. It is in the order of £40 million since 1947. When this amount is equated to the total population, one finds that the

expenditure has been in the order of only about £13 per head for the entire nine-year period or roughly £1 10s. per head per year. At the same time, he continued, there have been numerous complaints that the taxation was high. Either the public should be educated to understand that the present policy of taxation was correct and that the rate of taxation was proper or the whole position must be reviewed. He believed that in a matter like this public co-operation was most desirable and that the Administering Authority should take every step to ensure that the public understand the need for the measure of taxation.

121. The special representative of the Administering Authority, without wishing to mention all the very justified suggestions which had been made by the members of the Council, would recall that if a few of them had denounced the taxes as too high, none of them suggested that they should be raised higher. The raising of these taxes depended upon the wishes of a native elected assembly.

(b) The ten-year plan for economic and social development

122. The representative of Syria reviewed the overall programme and expenditure for the ten-year plan, as well as the statement of the special representative that considerable efforts had been made to diversify and improve agricultural production in co-operation with African peasants, to perfect their methods of cultivation and to improve their equipment with a view to raising the standard of living. Unfortunately the Council did not have the details and figures, particularly the details relating to the extent of the participation of the Africans, and the representative of Syria trusted that this information would be included in the next annual report so that the Council might be able to pass judgement on the effectiveness of the participation of the indigenous inhabitants in the economy of their country. In his view the Trusteeship Council should recommend that the Administering Authority ensure the fullest participation of the indigenous inhabitants in the implementation of the economic part of the plan, as well as in any other undertaking affecting the economic life of the Territory, and that it further increase capital investment so that the Territory might develop at a greater and a faster pace.

123. The representative of Italy said that his delegation had noted with interest the measures which the Administering Authority had taken in the two phases of its first ten-year plan and had no doubt that, if necessary, a further plan would

be considered. This new plan might give even more emphasis to developing production, although it was realized that, in a country with an economy like that of this Trust Territory where the infrastructure was always important, and as long as no other international assistance was available, a substantial portion of the money ear-marked for general economic development would have to be spent on the Territory's infrastructure.

124. The representative of Burma stated that it would be interesting to have some details about increased production projects and the extent of indigenous participation in the development plan. He considered it desirable to have a quantitative estimate of the goal in terms of gross output under various heads. Referring to the Council's resolution of its fifteenth session, asking for detailed information as to the effect of the plan on individual incomes and on the general raising of the standard of living, he expressed the hope that the statistical services of the Territory would be strengthened in order to furnish the required information.

125. The representative of India noted that the Administering Authority had taken up the planned development of the Territory. In an economically backward country like this, there is always great difficulty in trying to adjust the limited revenues to the increasing needs. So many things have to be done at the same time. Therefore, a judicious expenditure of the revenues is called for, and that is often possible only through a planned programme of expenditure. He was happy that the first phase of this programme had come to an end and that the second phase was about to begin.

126. The representative of Guatemala observed that, according to the data provided by the Administering Authority, the ten-year plan represented an expenditure of about \$91 million up to 31 December 1954, that is, a yearly average of about \$11 million for eight years, amounting to a per capita expenditure of about \$3.80. If this latter figure was compared with the sum of about \$2.00 per capita investments in Togoland under French administration, it would appear that the effort in the Cameroons was almost twice as great. The distribution of the funds (whereby 80 per cent went to communications) would seem to lead one to understand that this plan had greatly favoured export businesses and that the direct benefits to the Territory could only be seen in a long-term picture when conditions would have improved for the indigenous population and when the population

would be in a position to take advantage of such a broad system of communications. He pointed out that the Administering Authority had attempted to give these plans a permanent nature, since they had entered upon a second stage which would run through 1958. In this stage, the Administration would attempt to diversify and improve the production by means of direct action in favour of African producers, as the Council had been told by the special representative. This was a reason for great satisfaction.

127. With regard to the organizations financing these plans, in addition to the FIDES and the CCFOM, the representative of Guatemala noted there were also lesser credit organizations giving short-term and long-term loans. He was interested to see this great diversification of financial organizations. But although there existed a certain degree of participation of the indigenous inhabitants in the decisions relating to the planning for the economy of the Territory through the Territorial Assembly and FIDES itself, it did not seem to him, in the light of the information supplied, that this participation was decisive by any means. This impression could be seen in the fact that the policy of investments in the Cameroons was determined by the French Government and also established the amount which were to be spent on the development of the Territory. The role of the Territorial Assembly was reduced to a distribution of allotments. He pointed out, however, that this function seemed to be very important inasmuch as, by means of it, indigenous representatives may express their preferences.

128. The special representative of the Administering Authority pointed out that members of the Council had said that more credits should be allocated for health purposes, for education, for housing and for industrial development. It had even been said that the credits under the plan were insufficient. But, he asked, where did the credits come from? One representative had stressed that, if the contribution of France to the budget of the Cameroons had been very important, the problem had not been so much to increase this contribution but, on the contrary, to develop the resources of the Territory. This was true, he agreed, but, unfortunately, the resources of the Territory could not be increased without making preliminary financial injections. That was why the key to the future of the Cameroons was in the credits under the Plan. These credits were allocated within a framework suggested by the Territorial Assembly. Another representative had pointed out that the role of this Assembly was confined to allocating credits

among the various chapters of the budget. The special representative wondered whether this representative would want the Assembly to decide how many thousand millions should be allocated to the Cameroons by the taxpayers of France. He thought that would be going too far. The most that one could expect from an assembly in the Cameroons was to administer the credits which France could grant to the Territory.

129. The special representative of the Administering Authority did not wish to claim that the Plan was perfect, but he had to protest against an opinion that had been voiced in the Council. It had been stated that 80 per cent of the credits under the Plan were devoted to transport and communications and therefore, 80 per cent of the credits of the Plan benefited mainly the exporters, that is, the European exploiters of the resources of the Territory. The special representative would prove that if 80 per cent of the credits of the first Plan and 50 per cent of the credits of the second Plan were devoted to communications, they would benefit the Cameroonian producers exclusively. Exporters brought the produce in the harbours, according to world rates. If one kilogramme of cocoa was purchased for 160 francs in the Port of Douala, it was bought in the light of its resale price in London and New York. If the producer received only 60 francs, it was because the customs duties were 50 francs and the cost of transportation, 40 francs. When, because of an improvement in communications, transportation costs would be cut to 20 francs, then the producer would receive 80 francs instead of 60 francs. The construction of roads, bridges and railways in the Territory therefore resulted in increasing the revenues of the producers of export goods without in any way affecting the profits of the exporters. This was so true that even the petitioners of the UPC - and for him, this was a superlative - vigorously demanded roads throughout the cocoa-growing area.

(c) Agriculture

130. The representative of Burma said that the methods of cultivation were still primitive and that the indigenous population should be encouraged to adopt better farming methods and cultivate more cash crops. His delegation supported the Visiting Mission's suggestion to use such simple instruments as ox-drawn ploughs, carts and wheelbarrows rather than modern machinery.

131. The representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics noted the statement in the report of the Visiting Mission that the indigenous population was taking an increasing part in the economic life of the Territory, stressing that this took the form mostly of smaller agricultural or agriculture-related enterprises. He stated that it was indicated in the report of the Administering Authority that this basic type of production was still backward. Cultivation methods and agricultural implements in the Territory were still primitive. The Mission, in offering its cautious recommendations to the Administering Authority, actually limited its recommendations to a request that the Administering Authority should encourage the use of plows, the use of cattle as draught animals, etc. He felt that, since agriculture was the fundamental sector of the economy of the Territory, the Council should draw the attention of the Administering Authority to the need for a more serious examination and development of a comprehensive plan for the agricultural development of the Territory, for the development of the agricultural production run by indigenous inhabitants, including such aspects as agricultural machinery, tools, and so on. As in the past, the imports of agricultural machinery and implements constitute only an insignificant percentage of the total imports of the Territory.

132. The representative of India stated that the economy of this Territory was largely agricultural, and with the majority of the inhabitants subsistence farmers, emphasis had rightly been laid on increasing production. He was glad to note that the Administering Authority was taking steps in order to increase that production and also to improve the cultivation of cocoa, coffee and bananas, and, as well, to introduce large-scale cultivation of cotton and rice in the North. In such an economy, where the majority of the farmers get only a subsistence price, any steep fall in prices is naturally bound to have very serious and adverse effects upon the population. He thought therefore that the Visiting Mission had rightly drawn attention to the widespread complaints regarding the fall in the price of cocoa, and, at the same time, he was glad that the Administering Authority had taken up this question and proposed to institute a price stabilization fund. He hoped that this scheme, which would come into operation after the present year's harvest, would include not only the question of stabilizing the price of cocoa, but all other products of the Territory, which require economic assistance of that kind.

(d) Forestry and Soil Conservation

133. The representative of New Zealand said that his delegation observed that the Administering Authority had maintained its efforts to ensure protection for forest reserves, even though, in the South particularly, the population had yet to be persuaded of the importance of maintaining these reserves.

134. The representative of Syria stated that more than 15 million hectares of rain forest and 12 million hectares of dry tropical forests or wooded savannah constituted a great element of wealth in the Territory. He regretted the many bush fires which had taken place. He equally regretted the fact that the inhabitants were not co-operating fully with the Administering Authority in combatting deforestation, and he trusted that the Administering Authority would continue its efforts, in co-operation with the inhabitants, to classify forests and combat soil erosion.

135. The representative of Burma referred to the opposition of the people to the classification of forests undertaken by the Administering Authority which interfered with their customary land rights and created fear of lack of land for cultivation. His delegation hoped that a study would be made of this matter and that efforts for conservation of soil and forests would be continued in the light of these studies.

136. The representative of Australia pointed out that Administering Authority had so far been unable to enlist the sympathy and support of the indigenous people or their representatives in programmes directed towards the conservation of land through forest and land classification. The economy of the Territory must for many years remain dependent upon agriculture, and it was a matter of vital importance that the basic agricultural resources of the country be protected and that the people be fully aware of the importance of these efforts.

137. The representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics observed that the Administering Authority had taken measures for forest conservation in order to maintain a certain standard of fertility of the soil. There were, however, in his view, a number of points which could stand some improvement. The indigenous population had, in a number of cases, opposed the classification of forest lands. In his opinion this was because the forests, a basic resource of the Territory, were being exploited for the greater part

not by the indigenous population but by foreign companies. In 1954, in particular, licences for forest exploitations were granted to 67 persons, of whom not more than 13 were Africans. The total area covered by those permits was 1,739,000 hectares. If the population realized and was given to understand that it gained something tangible from the classification of forests and lumber exploitation, and if these permits were granted mainly to Africans, then, he suggested, the indigenous inhabitants' attitude toward forest classification would be quite different.

138. The representative of India was glad to note the care which the Administering Authority took in regard to the conservation of forests and in order to cope with the increasing danger from bush fires, soil erosion and other dangers. It was also doing its best to educate public opinion on this question and to reduce public opposition [to classification of forests], but it was noticed that the number of indigenous inhabitants holding licences was comparatively very low. It would be highly desirable, where opportunities were equal, that indigenous inhabitants be preferred in the matter of granting of licences.

(e) Livestock

139. The representative of New Zealand expressed the opinion that the excellent work being done to improve stock-breeding had for a long time been a feature of the economic progress of the Territory and, therefore, his delegation was not surprised to find commendation of this in the report of the Visiting Mission.

140. The representative of Burma said that his delegation was pleased to note the work done by the Livestock Service to protect the health of the livestock and to improve their strain. It considered that good possibilities existed for the development of a tanning industry and that the Visiting Mission's observation that the Administering Authority should study this matter in order to help the indigenous population in the proper processing of hides deserved careful and sympathetic consideration.

(f) Fisheries

141. The representative of Syria noted with great satisfaction that fish farming lakes occupied almost 50 hectares of public land and 115 hectares of private land. The introduction of fish in the diet of the Africans was welcome, and he expressed the hope that the Administering Authority would further extend and develop fish farming.

(g) Industry

142. The representative of the United States of America said that it was the hope of his delegation that, as a result of the operation of new electrical plants, there would, in the near future, be an increase in the establishment of secondary industries throughout the Territory.

143. The representative of the United Kingdom referred to what he considered the very interesting developments which had taken place in the field of new industries, and mentioned in particular the construction of the aluminium factory in Edéa. He said that in addition there had been improvement in the processing industries of the Territory. These results seemed to his delegation to be particularly gratifying which the Council should note with satisfaction in view of the need which it had so often expressed for diversifying the economic life of these agricultural territories.

144. The representative of New Zealand noted with satisfaction that the important hydro-electric scheme at Edéa was now producing power. This, he said, made possible the operation of the aluminium factory in that centre which would produce aluminium household equipment.

145. The representative of Burma said that it seemed that little headway had been made in developing handicrafts and light industries. He expressed the hope that the Administering Authority would continue actively to encourage technical training and grant sufficient loans to artisans in order that these industries might develop.

146. The representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics noted that in the industrial development of the Territory, the part played by the indigenous population was small.

147. The representative of Guatemala stated that in making an analysis of the mining situation in the Cameroons under French Administration, he realized that certain studies and inquiries had been carried out. He saw that tin, oil, natural gas, molybdenum and so forth had been discovered. He also realized that exploitations were reduced to gold and tin on a small scale. He welcomed the news that the Administration was establishing an aluminium factory in the Territory, nevertheless this news gave rise to certain doubts in his mind due to the fact that aluminium had not been mentioned among the mineral possibilities

of the Territory; and he wondered if it had been discovered overnight, or whether by some involuntary mistake the Administration had not informed the Council that it was available in the Territory or whether the aluminium was being imported for the factories of the Territory. He believed that if the Administration would redouble its efforts and encourage prospecting, the Territory might achieve greater economic stature.

148. The representative of Guatemala also noted certain important facts connected with the development of the Territory. Worthy of notice was the increase of 25 per cent in the production of electrical energy in 1955 in comparison with 1954. Even more important was the beginning of industrial development which was facilitated by this available electrical energy. According to the special representative, an aluminium factory would go into production in 1956 as well as a factory for the production of aluminium utensils. Work had been undertaken to establish a metal factory and there was a cement factory in Douala. There were also new plants for the processing of cotton seed and a construction industry had grown up, especially in Douala and Yaoundé. These facts had to be emphasized, because they showed a trend in the efforts of the Administering Authority which was greatly to the benefit of the Territory.

149. With regard to the diversification of industry, which was only in its initial stage, he had noted also the existence of timber companies, vegetable oil and soap factories, breweries and processing plants in connexion with cocoa and so forth. He pointed out that the simple enumeration of new industries mentioned by the special representative was only an index which gave the Council a glimpse at the structure but was not much practical help because figures which would give information about the extent of industrial production had not been given. In this connexion he stated that although the production of electrical energy had increased by 25 per cent, it was still very much below the potential requirements of the Territory. On the other hand, he realized that the development of this utility had to go hand in hand with industrial development. He concluded that it would be good for the Territory to encourage further the development of electric energy and to encourage industrialization there.

150. The special representative of the Administering Authority, in reply to one representative who wondered why the Administering Authority had not spoken

in its annual report of the aluminium deposits in the Cameroons and why all of a sudden it had mentioned the establishment of an aluminium industry, stated that the establishment of the industry had been mentioned on several occasions: in the annual report of 1954 on page 131, the report for 1953 on page 141 and, he thought, also the report of 1952. It was nevertheless true that the Territory did not have any bauxite deposits. But the production of aluminium depended not so much on the proximity of the raw materials as on the price of hydroelectric energy. The hydroelectric plant of Edéa supplied cheap energy in large amounts. That was why it was thought that it would be profitable to establish an aluminium plant. The special representative did not know on what information the representative had based himself when he had said that the production of hydroelectric power was not sufficient for the possible needs of the Territory. As far as the Administering Authority and its technicians were concerned, the production of hydroelectric power at this point was far larger than the potential consumption of the Territory, and that was why the aluminium plant had been envisaged.

(h) Transport and communications

151. The representative of the United Kingdom, referring to secondary road communications, gave the opinion that small bridges were the key in the earlier stages of the improvement of these communications. Frequently these roads were rendered useless by the destruction of the slightly built wooden bridges over streams either by termites or the rush of water during the flood season. He, therefore, made the suggestion that the Administering Authority might wish to consider whether it might not give good results if qualified men were employed to build proper bridges - perhaps of concrete or at least with concrete foundations over these small streams - leaving it to the local administrations to construct and maintain the secondary roads between the bridges.

152. The representative of China considered the construction of more roads and bridges to be a sphere of activity in which energetic measures should still be taken by the Administering Authority.

153. The representative of Syria believed that the Territory was fortunate in having 10,000 kilometres of roads, of which 8,600 kilometres were all-season roads. The 505 kilometres of railways, the two modern seaports at Douala

and Kribi, the river port on the Bénoué at Garoua, and the fifteen airfields were a great asset to the economic life of the Territory. However, it seemed to him that secondary and feeder roads and bridges were still inadequate, and he trusted that the Administering Authority would carry out existing plans in the near future in order to give satisfaction to the people of the Territory.

154. The representative of Guatemala noted that the Territory had some 10,000 kilometres of roads, of which about 8,000 were passable at all seasons. Some of the roads were asphalted, and there was in addition a railroad. The Administration was justly proud of the achievements of the ten-year plan in regard to roads. This was a great contribution to the economy of the Territory. He could not lose sight of the fact that the results were closely connected with the great interest which was taken in the export trade. However, the work done on roads had to be viewed with the greatest satisfaction.

155. The special representative of the Administering Authority stated that the 80 per cent of the credits of the first Four Year Plan and the 50 per cent of the credits of the second Four Year Plan for the construction of roads, bridges and railways in the Territory resulted in increasing revenues to the producers of export goods without in any way affecting the profits of the exporters. A discussion of this point is developed more fully in the second dealing with the Ten Year Plan for economic and social development.

156. After hearing the explanations given by the special representative of the Administering Authority, the representative of Guatemala stated that he had simply referred to the fact that the direct benefit of the road network went immediately, at this initial stage, to great economic interests, and that it would take some time before the great majority of the population would benefit directly.

Land Tenure

157. The representative of the United Kingdom said that he was somewhat concerned at the general belief that the old indigenous system of land tenure was a bad one and should be changed. His delegation was of the opinion that in those places where the traditional system had been maintained the people had

the right to use their land. He realized that times were changing with the production of permanent crops instead of annual crops and that ownership of land would allow farmers to borrow money on the security of their land for the improvement and the development of their farms. However, this very facility for borrowing had certain risks attached to it and the United Kingdom representative trusted that the Administering Authority, in developing this system of individual ownership, would watch the system with great care so as to protect farmers, if necessary, from their own improvidence.

158. The representative of Syria noted with interest the statement of the special representative that farmers could now mortgage their land and secure loans from financial institutions. The fact that the right of individual property was being more and more recognized in urban and developed agricultural areas was a source of satisfaction, and he expressed the hope that the cadastral survey would be further extended in order to encourage the progressive definition of the rights to land of the indigenous inhabitants.

159. The representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics deemed it necessary to draw attention to the situation with regard to land concessions. Although there is no so-called land hunger for the indigenous population in the Territory, the continual granting of land concessions in the Territory had continued apace, and this in the long run harmed the interests of the indigenous population and could not fail to affect the whole matter of the development of natural resources of the Territory. He felt that the Council ought to draw the attention of the Administering Authority to this situation, considering that the granting of agricultural concessions especially to non-Africans, to people who had come to the Territory from outside, could in no way meet the requirements and interests of the Territory.

Co-operative movement

160. The representative of New Zealand was of the opinion that the further rehabilitation of the co-operative movement through the service of technical assistance to co-operatives would meet with the Council's approval. Of particular note, he said, was the course of training instituted in Yaoundé for accountants of co-operative societies.

161. The representative of Syria felt that the Administering Authority should be commended for its efforts in developing the co-operative movement in the Territory. He was glad to know that there were 78 co-operatives at present, most of which dealt in bananas. He stated that he would like to have these co-operatives developed for other crops, such as coffee, rice, cotton and cocoa. Such co-operatives were operating in a number of African territories, and he expressed the hope that the Administering Authority would encourage such development by providing technicians who had been especially trained for such purposes.

162. The representative of Burma stated that his delegation was pleased to note the efforts of the Administering Authority to encourage co-operatives and train accountants for co-operative societies. It considered that co-operatives might be extended to crops other than bananas - crops such as cocoa, coffee and cotton.

163. The representative of India observed that the Administering Authority seemed to be taking considerable steps not only to increase the field of co-operative activity but also, by providing them with technical assistance, to ensure that the existing co-operative organizations work satisfactorily. He noted that co-operative activity at present was largely confined to bananas and trusted that it would be increased so as to comprise all other fields of agricultural production. He further pointed out that, in the experience of his country, the field of co-operatives could usefully be expanded to exports. He could appreciate the initial difficulties in respect of export facilities, but, considering the large amount of profit which goes to the middleman, it would be highly desirable for the Administering Authority to give their utmost consideration to such societies or organizations as were willing to enter this field of very great profit.

Sociétés africaines de prévoyance (SAP), Secteurs de modernisation and Postes de paysannat

164. The representative of the United Kingdom considered that the Administering Authority deserved congratulation for its system of Postes de paysannat - a system which had clearly responded to the wishes of the African producers themselves and which they now desired to be extended.

165. The representative of New Zealand was of the opinion that the interlocking of the work of the governmental agencies in the Secteurs de modernisation, the Postes de paysannat and the Sociétés africaines de prévoyance was apparently proving effective. He was also interested to learn of the success of the scheme to train moniteurs; the fact that these moniteurs had been able to put across the results of relatively simple training in basic techniques to farmers who presumably used traditional, primitive methods must be a source of satisfaction to the Administering Authority.

IV. SOCIAL ADVANCEMENT

General

166. The representative of Belgium called attention to the beneficent influence exerted by the Christian Missions in the social and cultural field, and expressed the hope that the aid which they always offered would be called upon to a large degree.

167. The representative of Guatemala drew attention to the problem of social stratification, which he had dealt with more fully in his comments on French Togoland, and which he found present in the Cameroons as well. He believed that the presence of this problem gave rise to possibilities of profound differences in the social family, the setting up of a European caste in the Territory, an élite which might serve to lead the Territory in its evolution but which was also in danger of becoming too detached from its indigenous bases. The problem of stratification might give rise to a profound social division which in the future might hinder the march of the Cameroons towards its social destiny.

Human rights and fundamental freedoms

168. The representative of Guatemala, referring to the question of freedom of the press, noted that, although the inhabitants had made a series of administrative appeals against the prohibition of publications and newspapers, this prohibition rested as a discretionary power with the executive authority. This situation was not a guarantee for the practical exercise of such a right because appeals were often granted when it was too late. Furthermore, the fear of sanction inhibited all initiatives. He thought it might be appropriate for the Trusteeship Council to suggest that the Administration consider the possibility of removing the exercise of such a right from the discretion of the executive except in cases of emergency in the Territory.

169. With regard to the question of slavery he stated that he had received with satisfaction the assurances of the Administration that there was no slavery or servitude of any sort in the Territory. However, the cases of local chiefs' requesting services from inhabitants on their private plantations

without any remuneration, although rare, might perhaps call for an expression of confidence by the Trusteeship Council that the Administration would be vigilant to see that such practices were avoided.

Status of Women

170. The representative of New Zealand said that the problem of improving the status of women was one which the Administering Authority had kept constantly before the Council, and his delegation was glad to note that the Visiting Mission felt able to commend the Administering Authority for its actions in this field, notably in relation to the control of the dowry. The Council had not, he said, assumed that solution could be found overnight for this difficult social issue, but would expect continuous efforts to be made to alleviate conditions which arose from it.

171. The representative of Syria found that, as in other African territories, the status of women in the Cameroons was not satisfactory. Evolution was slow and the pace of progress was not encouraging. This was by no means a reflection on the efforts and intentions of the Administering Authority, but the social structure and the lack of education, coupled with little co-operation on the part of the inhabitants, were important factors which had contributed to this state of affairs. While not minimizing the great efforts of the Administering Authority, he nevertheless believed that the time had come to draw the attention of the inhabitants to the harm they would be doing to themselves if they continued to follow such practices as bride-price, forced marriages and the denial of education to their girls. He believed that a large-scale campaign should be carried out throughout the Territory, particularly in the northern regions. He remained of the opinion that the Lamine-Gueye law should be reviewed at the earliest possible time. It was of vital importance to improve the position of women in the Territory in order to develop further its social conditions.

172. The representative of Italy said that especially with respect to the marriage system, the emancipation of women still constituted a serious problem. Here, only gradual progress could be expected as the result of assiduous, daily action taken in the manner at at the time most appropriate psychologically.

173. The representative of Burma stated that his delegation observed that Cameroonian women enjoyed few rights and that their status required considerable improvement. Efforts to introduce modifications in tribal customs should go hand in hand with efforts to encourage the education of women and their participation in appropriate social services. The Administering Authority might consider the possibility of setting up regional committees to give special attention to the matter. His delegation considered that it would be useful to know what effect campaigns of adult and fundamental education were having on the improvement of the status of women. It further considered that the Lamine-Gueye law which inter alia placed a relatively heavy burden on the Territory's budget should be reviewed.

174. The representative of Australia noted the difficulties facing the Administration in respect to raising the status of women, and in particular the complexities it confronted in the difficult matter of polygamy. He shared the view of the Visiting Mission that the mere enactment of laws would exercise only a minor influence on the evils attendant upon the bride-price system and that the problem posed by the traditions and customs of the indigenous people, particularly those in the North, was likely to be solved ultimately only by the beneficial consequences of expanded education and contact with more developed nations.

175. The representative of India noted that the Administering Authority had been trying to do whatever it could to improve the status of women. He appreciated that this was a matter in which much could be done only by public co-operation, and he could also see the impact of tribal and traditional views on this question. He thought that in any sphere in which the Administering Authority could do something to mitigate the present hardships, it should not hesitate to do so. So far as the Trusteeship Council was concerned, it was deeply interested in the welfare of this Trust Territory, and if a particular law, notwithstanding the fact that it operates in all French territories, worked great hardship, then that law should be reviewed. In particular, he felt that the Lamine-Gueye Law which is admittedly causing so much hardship in, for instance, putting up bride-price and unbalancing the budget to a very great extent, should be reviewed.

176. The representative of Guatemala recognized that the question of the status of women constituted a problem whose solution depended on education. He was satisfied to see that in the legislation in force in the Territory women enjoyed equality with men and that practices contrary to such equality were due above all to traditional customs. He hoped that the Administration would redouble its efforts to achieve the progressive broadening of the rights of women throughout the society.

177. With regard to the abuses resulting from the provisions of the Lamine-Gueye Law, under which there were family allocations which seemed to have encouraged polygamy, he felt that perhaps a revision of salary scales might contribute to the elimination of such abusive practices. This suggestion, of course, was without prejudice to the educational campaign which would be appropriate.

178. The special representative of the Administering Authority referred to observations made during the general debate on this matter. At that time the representative of France, when questioned regarding the possibility of amending the Lamine-Gueye Law, stated that although the law contained some bad provisions, its spirit was an excellent one, since its object was to put an end among Government officials to salary differences based on racial origin. He admitted that certain provisions of the law had given rise to abuses, but considered these abuses a minor disadvantage compared with that which would result if the Administering Authority were to establish discrimination between officials. The law could only be amended by the French Parliament, and he did not think it possible, in view of the policy followed by France in her Overseas Territories, that any amendment would be made. Although the concern expressed by the Visiting Mission was legitimate, it would be difficult for the Administering Authority to take measures running counter to the law

Labour

179. The representative of New Zealand noted that in his statements the special representative of the Administering Authority described the development of trade union activity and the intended application of the provisions of the labour code as major developments in the social field. The figure of 455 trade unions active

in the Territory was to the delegation of New Zealand impressive evidence of the increasing activity of organized labour.

180. The representative of China said that the growth of trade unionism and the increase in the number of trade unions should be commended. His delegation also considered the effort of the Administering Authority to accelerate the application of the labour code constituted a significant development. He was gratified to note the increasing part played by the Advisory Labour Commission in expressing its opinion on all the relevant orders issued on labour questions.

181. The representative of Syria stated that, apart from some unemployment in urban districts, he was glad to note that the labour code was operating in a satisfactory manner. He felt that the Administering Authority should train more skilled workers in order to satisfy the increased demand for this type of labour.

182. The representative of Burma said that the general position seemed relatively satisfactory although there was said to be a shortage of skilled labour and a certain amount of urban unemployment - both matters remediable by the Administering Authority. His delegation would be interested to know the Administering Authority's plans to correct this situation. In this regard, vocational guidance might be useful in planning employment according to available opportunities, in preventing unemployment and in correcting the present unhealthy attitude towards manual labour.

183. With regard to the unemployment problem mentioned by the Visiting Mission in the South of the Territory, especially in Douala, the representative of Guatemala trusted that by next year the Administration would report with regard to the studies and measures which had enabled them to achieve a solution of the problem.

Wages and Standards of Living

184. The representative of China endorsed the suggestions of the Visiting Mission with regard to the necessity of holding down the cost of living in the South and of raising the standard of living in the North.

185. The representative of Italy stated that the efforts to improve wages and raise the standard of living seemed to his delegation to be eloquently illustrated by the statistics placed before the Council and by what the Visiting Mission had seen in the South. His delegation hoped that, thanks to efforts made by the Administering Authority to improve economic conditions in the North, that further progress could soon be marked concerning wages and standards of living in this part of the Territory as well.

Social Services

186. The representative of Burma commended the welfare work undertaken by the Administering Authority and expressed the hope that it would become more extensive.

Public Health

187. The representative of New Zealand considered that the increase in appropriations for health in 1955 of eight per cent was substantial. He noted that there was progress particularly in the establishing of new and excellently equipped hospitals. He stated further that his delegation was most impressed with the effectiveness of the mobile health teams and would be glad to have continuing information in future reports of the effectiveness of the campaigns carried out by these teams against malaria, typanosomiasis, tuberculosis and leprosy.

188. The representative of China noted with satisfaction the increased expenditure on medical services and that there was a general increase in medical personnel in 1954, as compared with 1953. The mass campaign against the prevalent diseases conducted in 1955 in conjunction with WHO were, he said, impressive according to the figures given by the special representative.

189. The representative of Syria stated that in the medical field there had been good progress, but that the fact remained that the number of African doctors was still negligible. He urged the Administering Authority to train more Africans in the fields of medicine, pharmacy, nursing and midwifery.

190. The representative of Burma stated that, although his delegation recognized that progress had been made in providing medical and health facilities, it considered that the Administering Authority should continue to train more Africans in the medical and health fields.

191. The representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics could not fail to note a certain increase in the number of doctors, midwives, hospital facilities, dispensaries, mobile clinics and so on, which he declared were highly praiseworthy moves by the Administering Authority towards increasing health facilities for the indigenous population. But, he stated, the Visiting Mission also noted that the distribution of medical facilities was irregular: most of these facilities existing in the South, whereas in the North there was a serious shortage. Although the number of doctors had increased, it was still inadequate. According to figures presented by the Administering Authority there was one doctor per 32,000 of the population; that is, one doctor per fair-sized town, which, he submitted, was inadequate by any standard. He also drew the Council's attention to the fact that the number of indigenous doctors was still very low. In 1954, of 64 doctors practising in administrative posts only four were Cameroonians. He was of the opinion that the Council should recommend to the Administering Authority that it take measures of a rather urgent nature to increase the number of doctors in the Territory, particularly indigenous doctors. He felt that urgent measures of this kind were necessary since the protection of the health of the indigenous population was one of the principal tasks of the Administering Authority.

192. The representative of India noted that, although the facilities for medical help have increased year after year, the number of Africans among doctors and nurses and other medical personnel still remained low. As in other spheres of public service, this is a matter which should receive increased attention from the Administering Authority.

193. The representative of Guatemala wished to pay tribute to the Administration for the very praiseworthy efforts and activities which they had carried out with regard to public health.

194. With regard to the wish expressed by some representatives for an increase in the number of doctors, the special representative of the Administering Authority stated that that was also the wish of the Administering Authority, but that its realization was, as in many other cases, governed primarily by financial demands.

Housing

195. The representative of China stated that his delegation agreed with the Visiting Mission that a further effort should be made in the field of housing, although he did realize that the Administering Authority was doing a great deal to solve this problem. Increased funds should be allocated for the provision of sanitary dwellings for the indigenous population.

196. The representative of Syria stated that he joined the Visiting Mission in drawing the attention of the Administering Authority to the unsanitary and unhygienic housing in the rural areas. He had been interested to hear the special representative say that the Administering Authority was aware of the housing situation and hoped that it would have a suitable plan to remedy this situation. He fully agreed with the suggestion made in the Trusteeship Council that a community development plan might be introduced and that technical assistance might be sought from the United Nations and the specialized agencies.

197. The representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics noted the point raised by the Visiting Mission that as a result of poverty and primitiveness, there were low sanitary standards in rural areas. He thought that the Administering Authority should take every possible measure to foster housing co-operatives, especially in those areas where dwelling standards were particularly low to the point where the Africans slept under the same roof as their livestock.

Alcoholism

198. The representative of Syria shared the views of other delegations in urging the Administering Authority to intensify its efforts to reduce alcoholism, especially in the South.

199. The representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics stated that instances which were cited during the question and answer period seemed to indicate that there was a consensus in the Council to the effect that the Administering Authority should adopt some legislative measures regulating the import into the Territory and sale of alcoholic and other intoxicating beverages, as well as the conditions governing their distribution and sale in stores and other establishments. In addition, there should be some kind of propaganda or educational campaign conducted through public educational and social associations with a view to discouraging the spread of this unfortunate phenomenon.

200. The representative of India stated that the Visiting Mission had rightly brought to the Council's attention that this peculiar evil causes very great complication in the Territory, and that the question of restricting distillation in the Territory should be seriously considered. He felt that in a Territory such as this, with a backward economy, every effort should be made to reduce the imports of alcohol and also to impose such restrictions as would fit in with the economy and make the financial resources of the Territory available for the development plans.

201. The special representative of the Administering Authority referred to observations on the efforts of the Administration in combatting alcoholism which he and the representative of France had made during the general debate. The Administration had undertaken in 1954 and 1955 a publicity campaign against alcohol. It had also increased taxes on imported alcohol in order to raise the price in retail shops, and a 1954 decree authorized the High Commissioner to impose certain duties on the import of alcohol and to limit the amount imported. It had also been provided in a 1954 decree that the number of permits for retail shops or bars be limited. The Administration had stopped the issuance of any further permits and the price of permits had been greatly increased. During the first eight months of 1955 imports of alcoholic products had dropped by 20 per cent.

Treatment of offenders

202. The representative of Syria shared the views expressed in the Trusteeship Council that conditions in prisons should be improved and that prisoners should be given a trial without being detained for long periods.

V. EDUCATIONAL ADVANCEMENT

General

203. The representative of the United Kingdom thought that the Council would wish to pay a warm tribute to the Administering Authority for the very considerable progress which had been recorded in the educational field. The upward curve of increase in all the basic statistics of the educational service was, he said, most satisfactory and it was noteworthy that the number of pupils in secondary schools had shown a most welcome increase.

204. The representative of New Zealand noted with satisfaction that there had been an awakening of interest in education in the North and was glad to learn that the Administering Authority intended to capitalize on this enthusiasm and proposed to concentrate funds and resources on developing the school system to meet the educational needs of the North. His delegation supported the Visiting Mission's commendation of the Administering Authority for the campaigns conducted which had contributed to this new awareness among the people of the Northern regions of the value of education.

205. The representative of China congratulated the Administering Authority on the increase of schools, classes, pupils and teachers, the expansion of secondary education in the South, the development of technical education, the progress achieved in basic adult education and the steady increase of scholarships.

206. His delegation, he said, considered that the education of girls - emphasized by UNESCO's observations - should be expanded as far as possible, especially in view of the, as yet, low status of women in the Territory. It was also considered that the necessity for increasing the number of school inspectors deserved the careful consideration of the Administering Authority.

207. The representative of Syria was gratified to learn that education, which had not been accepted in the beginning, was now eagerly sought in the North. There had been a general request, the Council had learned, by all the people of the North for more schools and teachers, especially for the outlying bush centres. He was glad to hear the statement of the special representative that educational funds would be devoted chiefly to the North of the Territory.

208. The representative of Burma said that the Administering Authority should be commended for the general progress in the field of education.

209. The representative of Australia stated that the efforts directed by both the Administering Authority and the inhabitants of the Territory toward achievement of the basic objectives of the Trusteeship System, as well as the successes of these efforts, were evident in the field of educational advancement. The Visiting Mission appeared to have been favourably impressed by developments in this field, and he shared this general satisfaction.

210. He thought special mention should be made of the efforts of the Administering Authority to adapt education in the Territory to the special conditions of the local environment. The encouraging reports of developments at the Pitoa pilot school, which was experimenting in teaching methods specially adapted to the backward populations of the North, were particularly interesting, and he hoped that this and other efforts of the Administering Authority to promote the educational advancement of the Northern peoples would be continued.

211. The representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics stated that the 1954 report contains figures indicating that the number of schools, classes, teachers and pupils had increased for 1954 as compared with 1953. The Administering Authority also reported that expenditures for education were increased in 1954. He noted that this was a positive set of measures which the Council ought to welcome. At the same time, however, he noted that educational conditions as a whole in the Territory, after ten years of trusteeship, were still not satisfactory. He thought that the Council should draw the Administering Authority's attention to the desirability of bringing about a more regular distribution of school facilities in the Cameroons, especially by setting up a suitable school network in the Northern Cameroons. He further felt that the Administering Authority had not done enough to develop educational conditions within the spirit of Article 76 of the Charter. The Council should recommend to the Administering Authority that it should take radical measures within the next few years to improve the educational conditions by sharply increasing the number of primary and secondary schools, as well as the number of teachers therein.

212. The representative of India commended the Administering Authority for its efforts to increase the educational facilities and for the fact that nearly 55 per cent of the school-age children were attending school. At the same time, he stated, the difference between the development in the South and in the North was rather distressing. That the figure in the South was 86 per cent and in the North only 6 per cent was a matter of considerable seriousness, and he trusted that the Administering Authority would see to it that this great disparity was removed as soon as possible.

213. The representative of Guatemala supported the observations of UNESCO in chapter V of document T/1223 and stated that he would like the Administering Authority to provide in future annual reports data relating to the financing of education and the distribution of pupils among the various primary schools and classes in the form indicated by UNESCO in paragraph 5 of its chapter on the Territory.

214. He expressed satisfaction that education in the schools supported by the Administering Authority was free, since, taking into account the special circumstances of the inhabitants of the region, it seemed to him that the most adequate manner of spreading education was to establish a free, universal and compulsory system.

215. He also expressed satisfaction that in the educational programmes in the schools there were classes dealing with the geographical and cultural spheres of the pupils themselves and hoped that the Administering Authority would further encourage that type of education.

216. He expressed concern, however, that the emphasis in education fell upon the encouragement of a liberal and literary education. He believed that this type of education was of great value and should be encouraged, but doubted that special emphasis should be laid on it in preference to other types of education, especially in a territory which was in an incipient stage of development. In his opinion a doubt had now arisen as to whether in the French Cameroons there was not the danger of an intellectual proletariat being produced of people who had undertaken literary studies but who were not prepared to engage in ordinary agricultural activities, etc. Such a situation, if produced, would be of great danger to the Territory and for that reason he believed that the Administering Authority

would do well to study these aspects of its educational system and examine its educational policy.

217. The special representative of the Administering Authority, noting the stress which had been placed by various delegations upon the discrepancy in the development of education between the North and the South of the Territory and the wishes expressed that the Administering Authority devote all its efforts to the expansion of education in the North, stated that the intentions and plans of the local administration were in accord with the concern shown by the Council. In the course of the debate he had cited these intentions and plans, which included the devotion of future educational appropriations principally to the North of the Territory and the opening of a much larger number of schools in the North than in the South.

Primary education

218. The representative of Syria stated that he was happy to learn of the increase in the number of primary schools and in the number of students attending. He was particularly pleased to note the increase in the number of girl students. This was a most encouraging sign, but he believed that further efforts should be made to provide more schools for the children of school age who were not yet attending schools.

219. The representative of Burma considered that the total number of primary schools was small in relation to the population and that it was necessary to establish more.

220. The representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, citing UNESCO computations, stated there were 450,000 children of school age in the Territory. Only half of them, however, actually attend school. In the North only 6 per cent of children of school age go to school. Hence, the necessity, in his opinion, to recommend to the Administering Authority that it should take urgent measures to increase the rate of expansion of school coverage for primary education over the next three or four years, so that the elimination of illiteracy among children of school age should be resolved within a few years. If the rate which obtained over the past ten years would continue, progress would indeed be inadequate.

Secondary education

221. The representative of Syria expressed the hope that the Administering Authority would study the possibility of setting up a lycée in the North of the Territory as soon as possible.

222. The representative of Burma stated that general progress had been observed in secondary education.

223. The representative of Australia, noting that it had been pointed out that the number of children in secondary schools was low by Western standards, agreed that the number of such pupils, about 7,000 at present, was by no means large, particularly in relation to the total population of about 3 million. However, he found the rate of expansion, as evidenced in the figures submitted to the Council, already substantial, and believed this rate would be accelerated as additional numbers of teachers became available from the training schools.

224. The representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics stated that with regard to secondary education, the problem was even more acute than in primary education. In 1954, 6,737 students were in secondary schools of all types, with 2.7 per cent of the total number of students in primary schools. Thus, there was a vast discrepancy between the number of pupils in primary schools and the number of pupils in secondary schools. It was evident to the representative of the USSR, however, that it was not the primary but the secondary school which in this day and age could give young people the minimum knowledge and background required for engaging in any kind of productive, economic and social activity. The Council should recommend to the Administering Authority that it should take radical measures within the next few years to improve the educational conditions by sharply increasing the number of secondary schools, as well as the number of teachers therein.

225. The representative of Guatemala noted with satisfaction that, according to the Visiting Mission's report, the secondary schools were attended by pupils of various races, thus obviating racial discrimination in this sphere of human activity.

Technical education

226. The representative of New Zealand said that his delegation was glad to see that technical training had been a field of special effort. In the new industries

being established in the Territory there was an obvious outlet for as many skilled workers as the Territory could produce and the New Zealand delegation agreed with the Visiting Mission that the forethought shown by the Administering Authority in setting up pre-apprenticeship schools, apprenticeship centres and the Douala technical school deserved commendation.

227. The representative of Italy said that his delegation would favour an intensification of technical education which is also desired by the trade unions of the Territory.

228. The representative of Burma stated that his delegation found little progress in technical and vocational education; technical schools did not appear to attract as many pupils as other schools; for the future advancement of the people and of the Territory technical education was very important since an acute shortage of skilled workers existed; therefore, there was a clear need to develop technical education.

229. The representative of India particularly emphasized that greater attention should be paid to the development of technical education in that age when no country can entirely satisfy itself with progress in agriculture and when industrial and technological progress is indispensable. If a country is to catch up with other countries which have far better and more modernized economies, it was necessary that greater attention should be devoted to technical education.

230. The representative of Guatemala stated that courses in agricultural techniques did not appear in any of the curricula of the technical schools, and it seemed to him that agriculture had not been given the attention which was necessary in an agricultural territory such as the Cameroons under French administration.

231. The special representative of the Administering Authority stated that it should not be denied that the local administration had to overcome a repugnance felt by too many indigenous persons who considered that office work was the best possible means to social advancement and who often only undertook technical training if they failed to pass general education examinations. Nevertheless, the effort to develop and popularize technical education had been stressed in 1954 and 1955. In 1956 most of the primary schools with a full curriculum would

have an extra branch for apprenticeship and handicrafts. In other words, the Administering Authority had as its aim the extension and considerable development of technical education.

Higher education

232. The representative of New Zealand considered that the number of girls - ninety-five - who have qualified for higher education in France was particularly noteworthy. These students, after completing their provisional qualifications, would have a considerable impact and influence in the Territory, especially if they returned to practice their skills in areas where women traditionally have a notably inferior status.

233. The representative of Syria, noting that the Territory did not as yet have a institution for higher learning, expressed his belief that the time had come to think seriously of the establishment of such an institution. He trusted that the Administering Authority would report to the Trusteeship Council next year on its plans in this respect.

234. The representative of Italy stated that while his delegation recognized that the best course would be to establish an ad hoc institution in the Territory itself, it nevertheless felt that it was advisable to achieve a balance among conflicting demands and that the intensification of primary and secondary education should be given priority.

235. The representative of Burma said that it was regrettable that the position had not changed with respect to higher education since it was obvious that a population of over three million people could not be expected to wait too long for an institution of higher learning. His delegation therefore supported the Council's earlier recommendation that a university should be established in the Territory.

236. The representative of Australia found that there were more students than ever before at present studying overseas. Some representatives on the Trusteeship Council had expressed regret over the absence of an institution of higher education in the Territory, but he noted the view of the Administering Authority that there were as yet insufficient students qualified for higher education to warrant the establishment of higher institutions within the

Territory itself. He looked forward to the time when the number of students available would increase sufficiently to warrant steps being taken to provide local educational facilities such as were at present available only outside the Territory.

237. The representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics found the situation for higher education in the Territory sad. There was not one higher educational institution in the Territory. The Administration did make available scholarships for attending university faculties and scholarships outside the Trust Territory. Nevertheless, the number of students who took advantage of these scholarships were few; they were certainly inadequate for a population of 3 million. The absence of a higher educational institution in the Territory hindered the training of indigenous personnel and help up the "Africanization" of the governmental machinery. He therefore felt that the Administering Authority should set up within the next few years some higher educational institutions in the Territory.

238. While the representative of India appreciated the increase in the scholarships for foreign study, he felt that no country could depend indefinitely only on foreign scholarships. He stated that there would always be financial difficulties but it was a matter of supreme importance for a Territory of this kind to have its own educational institutions for higher studies. It was possible for one to argue that, without increasing the number of students, there could not be a university. Without a university in the Territory, however, it would be difficult to find a sufficient number of students because education in a foreign land, whatever may be the facilities, was often a costly process. When it was a question of public services and such activities, the problem of finding educated personnel had to be faced. In industry also, the need for increasingly trained personnel had been noted. For progress of any kind, therefore, in any sphere, an increasing number of educated people must be found, and it was not possible to have an increasing number of educated people at the rate required by the progress of the Territory unless there was an institution in the Territory itself which would make education cheap and bring it within the reach of the people. He trusted, therefore, that the Administering Authority would examine the matter much more closely in order to ensure that, as quickly as possible, institutions which cater to the higher needs of education would be established in the Territory.

239. The special representative of the Administering Authority stated that the interest residing in the creation of a university in the Cameroons was not being overlooked by the Administering Authority. One of the members of the Council had stressed the vicious circle he saw when it was said that one needed more students to open a university but without a university the number of students could not increase. In the French educational system such a vicious circle was impossible and even inconceivable; the number of potential students was determined by the number of pupils in secondary schools who passed the baccalaureat examination. In 1953 there were only sixteen persons who had obtained this diploma in 1954 there were 40 and in 1955 there were 75. This rate of progress was satisfactory, although the number of persons holding the baccalaureat diploma was still too small to justify the establishment of a university.

Teachers

240. The representative of Syria hoped that the pilot school at Pitoa in the Benoue Region would contribute towards the training of teachers adapted to the North of the Territory.

Scholarships

241. The representative of New Zealand considered as particularly noteworthy the change which is being considered in the scholarship scheme with the object of ensuring as far as possible that students take up studies which are most relevant to the general welfare and interests of the Territory. He felt sure that the results of this experimentation would be watched closely by other administrations having the same problem. No one, he said, wished to see the element of choice eliminated, but this system could strike a balance of considerable importance for the good government of the Territory.

242. The representative of Syria wished to congratulate the Administering Authority for the increase in the number of scholarships. He hoped that this increase would continue, but stated that he would like to see that scholarship holders, on the completion of their studies, went back to the Cameroons and served their country in all fields.

243. The representative of Guatemala stated that the trend toward an emphasis upon liberal and literary education to which he had referred could be more plainly seen if the scholarship data provided was examined. There were some fifty-nine medical students, and this was a fine thing, and there were seventy students studying letters, science and dlaw. On the other hand, there did not seem to be any scholarships in engineering. This raised doubts in his mind since a Territory as big as the French Cameroons, if it was to meet its requirements, badly needed engineers.

244. The special representative of the Administering Authority stated that in 1955, 153 scholarship students were studying in technical education institutions in France. In addition to the medical students, French universities included fourteen Cameroonian stuðents in science, two veterinary students, and three students who were training at the National Agricultural College. However modest were these numbers one could not claim that higher education included no future Cameroonian technicians.
