

UNITED NATIONS TRUSTEESHIP COUNCIL



INDEX

LIMITED

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CONDITIONS IN THE TRUST TERRITORY OF THE CAMEROONS UNDER BRITISH ADMINISTRATION

Report of the Drafting Committee

Chairman: Mr. F. Huré (France)

1. At its 445th meeting on 15 July 1952, the Trusteeship Council appointed a Drafting Committee composed of the representatives of Belgium, the Dominican Republic, El Salvador and France to propose, on the basis of the discussions which had taken place in the Council, conclusions and recommendations on conditions in the Cameroons under British Administration and to make recommendations concerning the chapter on that Territory for inclusion in the next report of the Council to the General Assembly.
2. The Drafting Committee held two meetings, at the first of which it elected Mr. F. Huré (France) as its Chairman.
3. The Drafting Committee decided to recommend that the Secretariat working paper (document T/L.290), as revised to take into account additional information submitted to the Council (T/L.290/Corr.1), should be the basic text for the chapter on conditions in the Trust Territory.
4. In the light of the general discussion by the Council on conditions in the Territory, the Committee drafted a number of conclusions and recommendations which it considered as reflecting the opinions of the Council as a whole and has annexed them to the present report.
5. The Committee considered the question of the preparation of a draft for inclusion in the report of the Council covering the work of the Standing Committee on Administrative Unions on the administrative union of the Cameroons with Nigeria. The Drafting Committee noted that the Drafting Committees on

other Trust Territories had decided to omit from their reports any reference to the question of administrative unions pending consideration by the Council of the general report of the Standing Committee on Administrative Unions. The Drafting Committee on the Cameroons under British administration decided to follow this example and not to propose in the present report any conclusion or recommendation concerning the administrative union between the Trust Territory and Nigeria.

6. The Committee also wishes to draw attention to the fact that it did not draft any observation or recommendation on the Bakweri land problem in view of the fact that the Standing Committee on Petitions has examined this question and has presented a draft resolution on it to the Council. The Committee noted that the terms of this resolution, as adopted by the Council, will in any case be included in the Chapter on the Cameroons in the normal course of events.

7. In connexion with the draft recommendation on corporal punishment (No. 11) the representative of Belgium requested the Committee to take note of the fact that his delegation found itself unable, for reasons which it had stated in the Council and in the General Assembly, to support the recommendation proposed on this question.

8. The Committee recommends to the Trusteeship Council that it adopt the working paper on conditions in the Cameroons under British administration (T/L.290, T/L.290/Corr.1) as the basic text for the chapter on that Territory for inclusion in the next report of the Council to the General Assembly, that it adopt the following conclusions and recommendations relating to conditions in the Cameroons, and that it include those conclusions and recommendations at the end of the appropriate sections or sub-sections of the Chapter on the Cameroons.

II. POLITICAL ADVANCEMENT

Constitutional reforms; elections

1. The Council, noting with interest the inauguration of the new Constitution for Nigeria and the Cameroons, welcomes the benefits which the Constitution makes available to the Trust Territory in the form of representation on the regional and central executive and legislative organs of government, the introduction of modern methods of suffrage, and general experience in democratic methods of government; notes nevertheless that indifference towards the first elections on the part of the indigenous inhabitants was observed in some parts of the Territory, and urges the Administering Authority to continue by all practicable means to foster the political education of the inhabitants and encourage them to play their full part in the operation of the new structure of government.

Local administration

2. The Council, considering that the balanced political development of the population requires that during the consolidation of the new Constitutional reforms a comparable advance should take place in the field of local government, and noting that it is the policy of the Administering Authority to bring about the evolution of existing tribal and other local government institutions into more modern and democratic forms, welcomes the steps already taken in this direction and awaits with interest information on additional measures and on the progress of their implementation.

III. ECONOMIC ADVANCEMENT

General situation

3. The Council, noting with satisfaction the continued buoyant economic situation of the Trust Territory and the particularly important contribution made to it by the operations of the Cameroons Development Corporation, draws attention nevertheless to the predominance of banana production in the economy of the Territory, recommends that the Administering Authority continue to give

/careful

careful attention to the question of the diversification of agricultural production, and invites it to include further information on the matter in its next annual report.

Communications

4. The Council, recalling the emphasis which it has previously placed upon the importance of road communications to the economic development of the Territory, and equally to its social and educational development, notes with satisfaction the further concentration of planning and effort devoted to road construction by the Administering Authority and in particular its substantial further allocations of funds for the purpose, including a special allocation by the Nigerian Government of £148,911 and another by the United Kingdom Government of £150,000, and urges it to press forward with its programmes in this field.

Operation of the Cameroons Development Corporation

5. The Council, noting the continuing contribution of the Cameroons Development Corporation to the economic, social and educational development of the Trust Territory both through its own operations and through the allocation of its surplus profits for the benefit of the Territory as a whole, welcomes in particular the inauguration of a representative territorial conference as a means of determining the application of these profits to public projects, and expresses the hope that consultations of this kind will be continued and the scope of discussion broadened as and when appropriate.

6. The Council, recalling that it is the intention of the Administering Authority eventually to transfer the management and control of the Corporation to the indigenous inhabitants, and recognizing that too drastic a change from the present system of management might impair both the efficiency of the corporation and its economic importance to the Territory, recommends that indigenous inhabitants continue to be brought into posts of responsibility with the Corporation as rapidly as they are equipped to do so, and in this connexion suggests that the excellent scholarship programme established by the Corporation be directed as far as may be practicable towards training in business and technical methods appropriate to the management of the Corporation.

/IV. SOCIAL

IV. SOCIAL ADVANCEMENT

Status of women

7. The Council, noting the attention given to the problem of improving the status of women and the steps taken to this end, such as the establishment of domestic science centres, special health work among women and the appointment of women education officers, recommends that the Administering Authority continue its efforts to improve the status of women and requests it to provide further information in the next annual report on the measures undertaken.

8. The Council, noting the continued existence of child marriage, recommends that the Administering Authority continue to urge its progressive abolition.

Medical and health services

9. The Council urges the Administering Authority to press forward with its efforts to expand medical and health facilities in the Territory, particularly the services in the northern area, and the steps being taken to modernize the treatment of leprosy.

10. The Council, noting the lack of adequate information as to the incidence and causes of infant mortality in the Territory, and recognizing the difficulties involved in obtaining such information, requests the Administering Authority to include in future annual reports as precise as possible an analysis of this aspect of public health.

Corporal punishment

11. The Council, noting the recent action of the Administering Authority to limit the award of corporal punishment and to remove from the Native Courts the power to award this punishment to adults in the southern Cameroons, again draws the attention of the Administering Authority to the previous recommendation of the Council and the General Assembly on this subject, and in particular resolution 562 (VI) of the latter organ, and urges the Administering Authority to make every effort to bring about the complete abolition of corporal punishment.

V. EDUCATIONAL ADVANCEMENT

General situation

12. The Council, noting that although budgetary allocations for education have continued to increase, the estimated rate of illiteracy in the Territory remains high, and noting that the Administration has access to the studies of UNESCO and other organizations on educational problems, expresses the hope that the Administering Authority will utilize the technical knowledge of UNESCO and other organizations and recommends that it take further steps to meet the educational needs of the Territory.

13. The Council, attaching particular importance to the progressive education of women, requests that future annual reports include statistics showing the school enrolment of boys and girls separately.

Primary education

14. The Council recommends that the Administering Authority increase its efforts to provide facilities for primary education, particularly in the northern part of the Territory, and urges the Administering Authority to take steps to ensure that the local authorities which are responsible for education in the northern part of the Territory adequately carry out the role entrusted to them.

School fees

15. The Council, recalling its previous recommendation for the eventual establishment of free primary education, and noting that fees continue to be charged at primary schools in the southern part of the Territory, recommends that the Administering Authority renew its policy in this respect with a view to taking progressive measures, such as allowing an increasing number of exemptions from the payment of fees, towards the ultimate objective of free education.

Teachers

16. The Council, noting that the number of teachers diminished during the period under review, expresses the hope that this decrease will prove only temporary and that the accelerated supply of teachers of high standard anticipated by the Administering Authority will result in a progressive improvement in the situation.

/Adult

Adult and community education

17. The Council, noting the further progress made in adult education during the year under review, particularly through the influence and activities of the Cameroons Development Corporation, expresses the hope that in view of the high percentage of illiteracy in the Territory, continued efforts will be made by the Administering Authority in this field.
