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CONDITIONS IN THE TRUST TERRITORY OF THE CAMEROONS UNDER FRENCH ADMINISTRATION

Report of the Drafting Committee

Chairman: Mr. Vittorio Zadotti (Italy)

1. At its 875th meeting on 4 March 1958, the Trusteeship Council appointed a Drafting Committee composed of representatives of Haiti, India, Italy and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to propose, on the basis of the discussions which had taken place in the Council, conclusions and recommendations on conditions in the Trust Territory of the Cameroons under French administration and to make recommendations concerning the chapter on that Territory for inclusion in the next report of the Council to the General Assembly.
2. The Drafting Committee held six meetings, at the first of which it elected Mr. Vittorio Zadotti (Italy) as its Chairman. The Committee had the assistance of the representative and of the special representative of the Administering Authority and the representative of UNESCO.
3. The Drafting Committee decided to recommend that the Secretariat working paper (document T/L.813, as revised T/L.813/Add.1) to take into account such additional information as became available during the examination of the annual report by the Council, should be adopted by the Council as the basic text for the chapter on the Cameroons under French administration.
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 which are set forth as annex I of the present report.

5. With respect to the provisions of the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly on the attainment by the Trust Territories of self-government or independence, the Committee further drafted a separate section on this question which, it proposes, should be placed at the end of the chapter on the Territory. The text of this separate section is reproduced as annex II of the present report.
6. The Committee accordingly recommends to the Trusteeship Council that it adopt the working paper on conditions in the Trust Territory of the Cameroons under French administration (T/L.813 and Add.1) as the basic text for the chapter on that Territory to be included in the next report of the Council to the General Assembly and that it adopt the conclusions and recommendations set out in annex I below and include them at the end of each appropriate section or sub-section of the chapter.
7. The Committee further recommends to the Trusteeship Council that it adopt the separate section set out in annex II.

ANNEX I

DRAFT CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

I. GENERAL

1. The Council commends the Administering Authority and the Cameroonian Government for the development of political, economic and social institutions and for the progress achieved in all fields during the year under review.

II. POLITICAL ADVANCEMENT

Development of representative, executive and legislative organs

(a) The Cameroonian Legislative Assembly and the Cameroonian Government

2. The Council commends the Cameroonian Government and the Legislative Assembly for the able manner in which they have exercised the considerable powers granted to them under the Statute, and is pleased to learn that elements from both the north and the south of the Territory have co-operated fruitfully in these institutions. The Council notes that under the Statute the Cameroonian Legislative Assembly may request further transfers of powers to the Cameroonian authorities. It is convinced that the Administering Authority will receive sympathetically any requests for further transfers which the Cameroonian Legislative Assembly might present to it.

(b) Regional, urban and local administration and provincial organization

3. The Council commends the growth of municipal and local government in the Cameroons and expresses the hope that the Cameroonian Government will continue the work of strengthening local government, in particular by the creation of further communes with elected councils.

4. The Council notes that the establishment of a separate province of the North has been postponed.

Disturbances in the Territory

5. The Council deplores the continued recourse to violence in certain parts of the Territory, particularly in the Sanaga-Maritime, by a segment of the population and appeals to the persons concerned to co-operate with the remainder of the population in promoting normal political life in the Territory.

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6. In this connexion the Council notes with interest the recent promulgation of the Amnesty Law. It welcomes the appeal of the new Prime Minister and expresses the hope that this appeal as well as a liberal application of the Amnesty Law will contribute to a substantial improvement in the situation. The Council invites the Administering Authority and the Cameroonian Government to explore further ways and means of restoring normal conditions in the affected areas.

Training and appointment of Cameroonians for positions of responsibility in the Administration

7. The Council notes with satisfaction the establishment of a separate Cameroonian public service. It emphasizes the need for accelerating the Cameroonization of this service and recommends that consideration be given to the establishment of accelerated training schemes for Cameroonians in all branches of the civil administration and to the drawing up of a planned programme for the progressive appointment of Cameroonians to positions of responsibility.

III. ECONOMIC ADVANCEMENT

General

8. The Council notes with satisfaction the efforts made by the Administering Authority and the Cameroonian Government to develop and diversify the economy of the Territory and expresses the hope that these efforts will be continued. Noting in this connexion the important results achieved under the Ten-Year Plan for development, it expresses the hope that the Administering Authority will provide in its next annual report the fullest possible information on the results achieved and in particular the increases in production.

9. The Council recommends that investments in the Territory should be promoted by all possible means such as by the encouragement of private savings and reinvestments by companies. The Council recommends that the Cameroonian Government participate as fully as possible in the preparation and implementation of programmes for foreign trade.

10. The Council expresses the hope that Cameroonians will be encouraged to participate increasingly in the economic life of the Territory.

Agriculture

11. The Council commends the Administering Authority and the Cameroonian Government for their efforts to improve agriculture and notes in this connexion the development of credit co-operatives and the activities of the recently established Ministry of Agriculture.

12. The Council notes with interest the successful operation of the Cocoa and Coffee Stabilization Funds, following the recent increases in world market prices of these commodities.

Industry

13. The Council notes with satisfaction the expansion of the important hydro-electric station and the coming into production of the aluminium industry at Edéa and recommends that Cameroonians be trained for assuming positions of responsibility in these enterprises. It hopes that future annual reports will contain such statistics on their activities as will permit their contribution to the economy of the Territory to be assessed.

IV. SOCIAL ADVANCEMENT

General

14. The Council notes with satisfaction the progress made in the social field during the year under review and in particular the measures taken to improve the status of women. The Council commends the authorities for the improvements made in housing in the Territory, and it expresses the hope that the authorities concerned will take further measures for the improvement of social conditions in general.

Public Health

15. The Council, noting with satisfaction that the medical services of the Territory have developed at a steady rate, expresses the hope that the authorities concerned will continue their efforts to improve such services and to increase the number of Cameroonian qualified medical personnel.

16. The Council commends the observations of the World Health Organization (T/1363) to the attention of the Administering Authority and the Cameroonian Government.

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V. EDUCATIONAL ADVANCEMENT

General

17. The Council commends the Administering Authority and the Cameroonian Government for the progress made in the field of education during the year under review. Noting that in the north of the Territory the proportion of school-age children attending schools during 1956 was only 9.8 per cent as compared with 91 per cent in the South but that the Government had recently taken measures to increase school attendance in that part of the Territory notably by the establishment of sixty new schools, the Council expresses the hope that the Cameroonian Government will continue to devote particular attention to this problem.

18. The Council reaffirms its recommendation adopted at its nineteenth session in which it expressed the hope that, with a view to satisfying the needs of the Territory in the field of education, it would be possible for the competent authorities to consider the establishment in the relatively near future of a university in the Territory. The Council also recommends that the competent authorities consider the possibility in some cases of including in the conditions for grants of scholarships to Cameroonian students a clause providing that upon conclusion of their studies they should return to the Territory to join the public service of their country.

19. The Council commends the observations of UNESCO (T/1354) to the attention of the Administering Authority and of the Cameroonian Government.

ANNEX II

VI. ATTAINMENT OF SELF-GOVERNMENT OR INDEPENDENCE

The Council considers the Statute of the Territory constitutes an important step towards self-government or independence. It is confident that appropriate steps to be taken by the Administering Authority will further facilitate the realization of the final objectives of the Trusteeship System in accordance with the free expression of the wishes of populations concerned, taking into account all alternatives relative to their future status, and in this connexion notes the declaration by the representative of France that the moment was no doubt near for the Cameroons when the Administering Authority would establish, in complete agreement with the Cameroonian Government, a reasonable time-table which would lead the Cameroons to its emergence from Trusteeship.
