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Sixth Session

VERBATIM RECORD OF THE FIFTY NINTH MEETING

Palais des Nations, Geneva.

Thursday, 16 March, 1950, at 3 p.m.

The Acting PRESIDENT: Mr. Max HENRIQUEZ URENA Dominican Republic.

Note: The Official Record of this meeting, i.e. the summary record, will appear in provisional mimeographed form under the symbol T/SR.261 and will be subject to representatives' corrections. It will appear in final form in a printed volume.

The Acting PRESIDENT (Interpretation from French): I declare open the two hundred and sixty first meeting of the Trusteeship Council.

EXAMINATION OF THE ANNUAL REPORT ON THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE TRUST TERRITORY OF THE CAMEROONS UNDER FRENCH ADMINISTRATION FOR THE YEAR 1948 (T/368, T/439, T/521 T/L.56).

The Acting PRESIDENT (Interpretation from French): We shall continue our study of the Annual Report on the Trust Territory of the Cameroons under French Administration. We have reached the question of political advancement.

At the invitation of the President, Mr. Charles Marie Watier, Special Representative for the Trust Territory of the Cameroons under French administration took his seat at the Council table.

Mr. CARPIO (Philippines): Last year, during the examination of the Annual Reports on the French Cameroons and French Togoland, I expressed my Government's appreciation of the three basic policies of the Administering Authority in the field of education. The first of these basic policies is the direct assumption by the Administering Authority of the all-important function of government in the field of education. The second is the establishment by the Administering Authority of public schools where primary education is given free, and the third is the adoption of the Metropolitan language in lieu of a number of undeveloped native dialects as the medium of instruction. These basic principles have been found by our national experience in the Philippines to be the most effective way of promoting education and at the same time developing a sense of unity and common identity among the population by their being able to have a common language of their own which is understood from one end of the territory to the other. It is for these reasons that we do not expect to ask many questions on these basic policies. Our interest will centre more on the implementation of these policies in the Trust Territory, particularly in the field of public education where public primary education is given free.

I should like to ask one question on this point of the special representative, if I may. I should like simply to ask him what particular phase of the public educational system in the Territory shows there has been noticeable improvement in government schools where primary education is given free.

Mr. WATIER (Special Representative for the Trust Territory of the Cameroons under French administration) (Interpretation from French): The representative of the Philippines has just recalled that last year, during the consideration of the first Report on the French Cameroons placed before the Trusteeship Council for study, the delegation of the Philippines approved the measures which France had taken to accelerate and to multiply education in the Cameroons. This encouragement has been very valuable to us, and the representative of the Philippines has confirmed it today, for which I thank him.

The representative of the Philippines wishes to know what are the specific aspects of primary education and to what extent such education has progressed since the examination of the last Annual Report. I would say, first of all, that progress with regard to education bears both on quantity and on quality. As regards quantity, a programme of expansion of education formed part of the ten year plan of progress in the Territory, but we found that as regards primary education, at any rate, the effort of the ten year plan was not very important.

The allowances in the plan for primary education at first sight do not appear to be considerable because it was considered that the exceptional credits of the ten year plan should be to enable us to cover expenditure of an exceptional character, whereas it is considered that the development of primary education should come within the general development of the Territory and not constitute an exceptional expenditure. That is why we intend to use the normal budget of the Territory to multiply primary schools in the Territory. It is only for model schools and for schools in which experiments are carried out in the adaptation of programmes that the ten year plan is used.

Between 1947 and 1948, the number of primary schools in the Territory increased in a comparatively important proportion from 157 to 177, that is to say, there were 20 additional schools as compared with the previous year. This effort bore especially on the northern area, which was especially short of schools and where a greater resistance was met from the population with regard to the expansion of education. This resistance is diminishing today, and the local administration is making every effort to make up for the delay which the resistance of the population to education has caused in primary education in the northern part of the Territory. I would add, as I pointed out yesterday, that we have opened more widely the doors of our schools for co-education. Girls are now admitted to

preparatory schools, and before the mass of small girls coming to school justifies the building of girls schools, we have multiplied the co-educational classes, which enables us to give teaching to both little boys and little girls.

With regard to quality, which is the second part of the progress we have made, we have especially attempted to adapt to the actual needs of the Cameroons the curricula of our schools, which have been revised in such a way as to be adapted more specifically to local needs. A wider part has been given to ethical teaching, which before was only given as a complete course and as a special course. At present there is a special course for general ethics and civic education, and in the same way we have special courses reserved for general health and hygiene. This subject is now included in the examination for the Certificat d'Etude, which is given at the end of the first degree course. A wider place has also been given to sports and physical education in general. Special courses have been created in order to enable pupils to learn of the possibilities of physical education and they receive a diploma which enables them to teach physical education in the bush schools at all stages. In the same way, sports have been encouraged by the erection of stadiums and the giving of subsidies to school formations for the development of sport in teams and groups for such games as football.

Mr. CARPIO (Philippines): My delegation notes with a great deal of satisfaction the increase in the number of public schools where education is given free by the Administration. This number has been increased by 20 from the 1947 figures to the 1948 figures. However, enrolment in public schools seems to have increased only in a small measure and altogether disproportionately to the increase in the number of schools. From my reading of the Reports I note that whereas in 1947 there was an enrolment of 18,600 students, in 1948 there was an enrolment of only 19,067, an increase of only 467 students. I wonder whether the special representative can give some explanation of this disproportionate increase in enrolment, taking into account the great increase in the number of schools.

Mr. W. TIER (Special Representative) (Interpretation from French):

It is true that the increase in the total number of students does not appear to be in proportion to the increase in the number of schools, and the reason for this comparatively small increase is the following. We are at present reorganising primary education, and formerly students were recruited more or less according to good will and our schools were encumbered with a great number of students for whom school was more or less a trade. They were encumbered with students who, instead of being 13 or 14 years of age, were sometimes 18 and 19 years of age, sometimes even fathers of families. A more normal state of affairs now prevails in the schools. We are now ensuring that the students undertake a complete programme of education, and the students are now regularly registered and enrolled. The fact of expelling these students from the public schools does not prevent them from obtaining further instruction, since there are a great number of private schools in the Territory, and these sometimes give an even higher education than the public schools, so that these pupils are able to continue studying while they pay, whereas the education in the public schools is free. If a student insists upon receiving a degree, it is normal that his family should pay for this, and he should not take the place in the public schools of a young Cameroon student for whom free education should be assured. That is why the number of students was reduced by a fairly large number of students from whom we could not expect very much. We still see in the Report that the lower schools, the preparatory schools, show a very important degree of improvement, whereas the higher classes have been considerably reduced in numbers because of the clean out which has been effected. But the quality, if I may say so, has greatly improved and it is especially the lower classes which now show very great enrolments and development, and in the higher schools, up to the period of examination, there will be pupils who will benefit by the complete course of studies and not pupils recruited more or less in an arbitrary manner and who cannot benefit from the teaching.

Mr. CARPIO (Philippines): I also note in reading the Report that there has been a decrease in the number of European public school teachers from 49 to 43. This was followed by a corresponding reduction in the number of European private school teachers from 124 to 116. It is hard for me to understand just how this came about, in view of the apparent inadequacy of school facilities and teaching staff. Perhaps there is an explanation which I have not figured out,

and I should be glad to hear of it from the special representative.

Mr. W. TIER (Special Representative) (Interpretation from French): I am not sure of the figures which have been quoted by the representative of the Philippines, but on page 139 of the Report the figures are given of the teaching personnel. In the European column of the table dealing with first degree education we find that there are 43 public and 116 private teachers, and this total of 159 is only very slightly inferior to the figure of the previous year. I should point out that the number of European officials theoretically remains the same. A great number of recruitments and enrolments were made in 1947, and in 1948 the departure ^{on leave} of a certain number of officials left us with a temporary reduction in the number of teachers, though the number, in fact, remained the same. After six months leave in 1948, the officials who were teaching in the previous year returned and resumed their duties in the Territory. I would add that the enrolment of new officials in 1947 shows an increase, and the figure has gone from 48 to 57. We now have 57 teachers enrolled in the teaching body of the Territory, so that this reduction shown in the 1948 Report is only temporary. It is due to the fact that officials became entitled to and went on leave, and it does not mean a reduction in the number of European personnel.

I would further add that in order to increase the number of indigenous persons taking part in first degree teaching we have created a new system. This was done after 1948, and that is why it is not included in the 1948 Report. We have a new cadre of moniteurs who can teach small children, while the teacher has the baccalaureat. In this group are included African candidates who have continued their secondary studies up to the third grade.

Mr. RYCKMANS (Belgium) (Interpretation from French): I should like to ask the special representative to clarify the situation with regard to the petition of Msgr. Beunaux. In his petition, Msgr. Beunaux points out that in the south of the country 80 percent of the population come under the Christian influence and are quite prepared to go to the private schools of the Missions. The Apostolic Vicar regrets that numerous moniteurs of the teaching profession in his congregation leave private teaching because they cannot obtain salaries that

are sufficient and go into public teaching. He also would like to see an increase in the subsidies granted to him. He alleges that their work is hindered by the fact that they do not receive sufficient subsidies.

The Report mentions a new status of private teaching which was to be submitted to the Representative Assembly in April 1949. Could we have some information concerning this new status, since it should now be in force? We should like to know the policy of the Administering Authority in this respect. In view of the fact that there are no Missions in the north so that the only teaching they can be assured of is official teaching, does not the Administration believe that, because of the great need for schools in the whole Territory, it might benefit by the good-will of private organisations which are prepared to ensure that teaching in the south, if they receive sufficient and somewhat wider subsidies?

Mr. WATIER (Special Representative): Msgr. Beunaux has set forth the position of private teaching and the difficulties they meet in competition with official teaching. It is true that to a certain extent this competition inevitably comes into play, but, nevertheless, it is not encouraged by the administration, in that moniteurs leave private teaching to join the forces of public education. The moniteurs do not receive the official status of public teachers, but they do have a function and certain advantages. They also have indemnities for their families, which are, of course, an advantage. There is also a pension right which does not exist and cannot exist in private teaching. Of course that constitutes an attraction to moniteurs in private teaching.

The principle which guides the granting of subsidies to private teaching consists of filling the gap between the salary given by Missions to their moniteurs and that given to moniteurs in public teaching. That is why we were able to see a very important increase in subsidies, which increased in one single year, from 1947 to 1948, from seven million francs to eighteen million francs. Nevertheless, in spite of this readjustment of salaries and this assistance given by subsidies for private teaching moniteurs, the advantages I have mentioned are a sufficient attraction to create a movement of moniteurs from private education to public education.

The representative of Belgium pointed out that school attendance was more widespread in the south and the needs were greater in the north, and he suggested that we might separate the school sectors and leave a kind of teaching monopoly in the south to private enterprises, that is, to the Missions, and concentrate the whole administrative effort on the north. It is difficult for us to admit a principle of this kind which would make a monopoly of teaching for private enterprise, whereas last year I stressed the fact that teaching is considered by us to be a State duty. Even if we are not in a position to furnish the complete effort to give sufficient public education in the whole Territory, and even if we accept with great gratitude the assistance given to us by the Missions and private teaching, nevertheless it remains that this principle should be asserted, inasmuch as public education is entirely free whereas the Missions require a small contribution so that, however small this contribution might be, the education is not completely free, as in the case of public teaching. That is why I think we should not abandon the effort which we have undertaken in the south, although, of course, in the north our objective will be to make the complete effort that is necessary. Of course, we share this effort with the Missions because, contrary to what was said by the representative of Belgium, there are Missions in the north and they have very energetically undertaken this task of education and evangelisation, which is a means of making themselves known in the country.

Mr. RYCKMANS (Belgium) (Interpretation from French): In a reply to the representative of the Philippines, the special representative alluded to the fact that, when children, young people or older people are not accepted for public education, they can receive private education if they pay for it. In this respect, I wonder whether the missions would not be prepared to give free teaching if they were subsidized. It is precisely because they can not undertake the complete responsibility that they have to ask for a small payment from their students. If the Administration subsidized them, would they not be only too pleased to give completely free education, as is given elsewhere?

Mr. WATIER (Interpretation from French): I believe this argument is of value, but, if the Administration could grant the missions subsidies to meet all their expenditures, it would be more concerned with spending the same sum for public schools. The principle of subsidies to private schools is not a normal one in French administration, far from it. It comes from a need. It is only when we have been faced with a factual situation that we have accepted wide subsidies for private teaching. According to the general principle of French policy, private education should exist on its own resources. We grant such subsidies only in exceptional cases.

Mr. RYCKMANS (Belgium) (Interpretation from French): I asked for information on the statute which was to become applicable in April 1949.

Mr. WATIER (Interpretation from French): This statute was approved and is now in force in the territory. Its essential provisions reconciled the status of education, resulting from the laws of the Republic, with the local needs of the Cameroons in such a way as to enable us to maintain private education in the territory under the best possible conditions. That is why private teaching is divided in general into two categories: recognized schools and declared schools. Any private school, whatever the kind of teaching given, should be declared. There is a sort of moral control on the part of the State over all schools. Control in the declared schools applies only to general conditions of hygiene, health, installations and such things.

Any one, so long as he satisfies certain moral conditions, may open a private school to teach any subject, but, to receive a subsidy, private schools must be recognised schools. The Director of a declared school requests recognition. In this request, he commits himself to teach certain subjects in accordance with given programmes approved ^{by} education officials and especially in accordance with the statute for private education in the territory. Once recognised, these schools submit themselves to the control and inspection of public education authorities. They accept their programmes and methods of implementation. In exchange for such control, they receive subsidies which are proportionate to their importance and the qualifications of their teachers,

Mr. RYCKMANS (Belgium) (Interpretation from French): Does not the administration grant a subsidy for the construction of schools under any circumstances?

Mr. WATIER (Interpretation from French): This system does not exclude subsidies for the construction of schools. The best proof of this is the important subsidy just granted to the Catholic Mission of Yaounde for the construction of a college. This has been granted exceptionally so that the mission can benefit from the credit facilities of the Ten Year Plan, as it was a question of second degree education.

Mr. CARRIO (Philippines): I wonder whether the special representative could tell us, from his experience, if there is any difference in the quality of instruction given in public schools and private schools, and whether there is any difference in the quality of the teaching staffs in the two types of schools?

Mr. WATIER (Interpretation from French): The difference is not in quality. I must say that the quality of instruction given by the missions is, on the whole, just as good as that given by public education. The best proof of this is in the results obtained. Students coming from private schools go through the public examinations under the control of the educational

authorities of the territory. Candidates presented by private schools have about the same percentage of success as candidates presented by the public schools. Therefore, the quality of the teaching is not to be doubted. However, there is a difference which should be noted. In public education, students beginning in the lower classes generally go through the complete cycle of studies which leads them to the Certificat d'Etude, except in cases where they drop out because of incapacity and so on. On the contrary, the missions are especially concerned with giving a minimum of education to the greatest possible number of small native children, and there are large numbers of students in these schools, of catechists, who are taught by Africans who do not have many university qualifications. A large number of them hardly have their Certificat d'Etude, and their special concern is to give a very simple and plain education, but more of a religious character than scientific or technical. It is in these differences that we can see the variation between public and private instruction. The greater number of mission schools do not go any further than the elementary classes, though there are large numbers who do go on to the higher classes.

Mr. DUSSAUT (Argentina) (Interpretation from French): I should like to ask the special representative to give us some further information in regard to the statement on page 131 of the Report which says that private education will be regulated by an educational statute and that that statute will be approved by the Representative Assembly during its session of April 1949. Could the special representative tell us if it was approved at that time and if it controls private schools in general?

Mr. WATTEL (Interpretation from French): In my reply to the representative of Belgium, I set forth the main lines of the statute for private education. To reply to the question of the representative of Argentina, I do not know whether it was in May or June 1949 that this statute became applicable. The local Assembly discussed it seriously, and it was approved with some minor changes. The Representative Assembly accepted to a large degree the system which was proposed and which is now being used in the territory.

Mr. DUSSAUT (Argentina) (Interpretation from French): Could the special representative tell us more about adult education? We are told that there were only 800 students in the first year, but that a great increase was noted in 1948. I should like to know if this increase is noted regularly, and whether these adult schools are conducted by private organizations or by the Government.

Mr. WATIER (Interpretation from French): The figures mentioned here refer only to adult courses in the public schools. Adult classes were not formerly very successful because the indigenous moniteurs and the teachers were not very enthusiastic over this kind of class. Moreover, adults did not seem to want to receive education from teachers and moniteurs who were much younger than they were. They considered that their prestige would be seriously ^{compromised} by taking courses from younger persons. We have made great progress since then, and we have given additional functions to those teachers who wish to teach in adult classes. Now we find a considerable improvement, and a great number of people attend these adult classes.

Mr. DUSSAUT (Argentina) (Interpretation from French): I should also like to know whether any effort has been made by the Administration to maintain what remains of the general art and culture of the people.

Mr. WATIER (Interpretation from French): When the Visiting Mission of the Trusteeship Council travelled through the territory, it was in a position to note that there was a museum of local handicraft at Fouban, which was intended to retain the various works and pieces of handicraft of the local population. In 1948, we set up a Handicraft Inspection, which is especially entrusted with handling all questions dealing with the teaching of various handicrafts and the study of the resources of the country in this respect, as well as of local artistic traditions. Unfortunately, this work comes perhaps somewhat late. There are no more Cameroonian tribes which have their own traditions or local traditions. We have the M'Bam and the Bamileke, who have their own artistry and handicraft, but none of the others seem to have any traditions in these two fields. We have done what we could to retain their

traditions and their art. In this, we had to depend on them, inasmuch as they had to be defended against the importation of other forms of art or handicraft. We are building a school of handicraft at Founban, where workers will come to perfect themselves in local techniques improved by the means which European techniques have placed at their disposal so that they may work more at ease while retaining the inspiration which they have inherited from their ancestors.

The ACTING PRESIDENT (Interpretation from French): As there are no further questions, we have now completed our examination of the field of education, and we have also concluded our examination of the Report. We shall now hear the general statements on the Report.

Mr. CARPIO (Philippines): In summing up our observations and suggestions on the administration of the Cameroons under French administration, my delegation would like to thank the special representative, and also the representative of France, for the commendable assistance they have given us in throwing additional light on the conditions and problems in the trust territory.

I think I express rightly the common feeling of members of this Council if I say that the administering Authority deserves the highest commendation for the sense of drive and energy which is apparent in the territory - an impression which is reinforced by the observations of the Visiting Mission. We are dealing here with a large territory which seems to offer a great potential opportunity for development along the lines set forth in the Charter. We have gained the impression that a new period of much greater development than in the past is now beginning and is, in fact, under way. The results so far achieved in the political, economic, social and educational fields are striking in many respects. In saying this, we do not overlook the fact that the achievements are not merely the result of only three or four years of trusteeship administration, but of the much longer period of thirty years or so during which the territory has been under French Mandate.

That is a good long time in which to get developments moving at a

reasonable rate, and the Council should expect to look forward to an even faster tempo of progress in future.

All this notwithstanding, it is a fact that problems still remain which must be tackled even more resolutely, if the development of the territory and its people towards the objectives set forth in the Charter is to proceed at the desired pace.

In bringing these problems to light, we have the advantage this year of having before us not only the Report of the Visiting Mission, but also a large number of petitions from the people of the territory. It is quite clear from these petitions, which we must accept as having been forwarded to us by the petitioners in all seriousness and good faith, that there are many people in the territory who are not altogether satisfied with the rate of progress that is being made. It would seem from these petitions that traces of colonialism still linger in the minds of some people. If they do still exist, the Administering Authority has the duty, naturally, to expunge them; if they exist only as the result of misunderstanding, the Administering Authority still has the duty to clear away such misunderstanding and to ensure that its policies are properly understood.

The Trusteeship Council, too, has the duty to take account of these valuable expressions of opinion of the people themselves, and to take such action, by way of recommendation, as may be necessary to bring about improvement in the situation.

Before dealing with the various functional fields of trust administration, we would like to state that we are looking forward to finding, in the Annual Report for 1949, a full account of the manner in which the Council's recommendations of last year have been put into effect. We attach no less importance to these recommendations now than we did last year, and we believe that the Council should reaffirm them in toto and express the desire to have a full account of their implementation in the next annual report.

In the field of political development, my delegation considers that the questions arising out of the association of the trust territory with the French Union remain the most important problem bearing on the development of the

territory towards self-government or independence.

We have by no means forgotten the assurance given us last year by the Administering Authority - an assurance duly noted by the Council - that when the proper time comes the people will be free to decide for themselves whether to continue in association with the French Union or to follow an entirely independent course.

We do not for a moment question the sincerity of that assurance, but it is still difficult for us to reconcile it with the whole purpose and conception of the French Union, which appears to us to be designed to hold together all the various component parts of the Union in a very close form of association - so close, in fact, that the legislative machinery for the whole Union is centralized in France. To give any of the various parts of the Union the right to break away from the French Union would seem to us to require a very different kind of Constitution from that at present in force.

From our point of view, the two main questions which arise are: Whether the trust territory will, in fact, be free, in an absolute sense, to break away from such a Union when the time comes. It might be said that the territory is being brought up, or educated, to the idea of staying tied to the French Union. Will it be able, when the time comes, suddenly to reverse its position, break away from the French Union, and, therefore, to do absolutely the opposite of what it seems it is now being trained to do. This is the first question, which my delegation does not attempt to belabour at this time because we believe the matter will be more thoroughly dealt with in our forthcoming study of administrative and similar unions.

But there is still a second question - one of more immediate importance - and that is, whether or not this arrangement is allowing the territory to receive the desired amount of training in self-government. The Council has already formally taken note of the fact that the powers of the Representative Assembly are limited to financial and administrative matters, and that, in particular, it has no power to initiate legislation, which is the prerogative of the French National Assembly.

Thanks, however, to the special representative and to the representative

of France we have been given a better understanding of the distinction which, under French practice, is to be drawn between legislation, that is, the enactment of general principles, and regulations, that is, the application of those principles to a given territory.

Nevertheless, the fact remains that these all-important fundamental principles of legislation are decided by the Assemblies in France itself which, by their composition, may not be specially qualified to deal with problems peculiar to the trust territory. In this connection, we have had the rather puzzling statement of the special representative that:

"the very spirit of trusteeship requires that legislative power should remain in the hands of the authority which has assumed responsibility for administration."

I would have put that in an entirely different way. I would have said that:

"the very spirit of trusteeship requires that legislative power should be transferred progressively and as rapidly as possible to the hands of the people of the trust territory."

We were relieved to hear the special representative explain further on this point, however, that, although he could not commit his Government, the Administering Authority might consider it possible to associate the territory more and more with legislative power. While welcoming this statement, we believe the Council might well expect of the Administering Authority a more definite assurance on this point which would thus be entirely in line - and, of course, it should be followed by actual measures - with the Council's recommendation of last year urging the Administering Authority:

"irrespective of the present or future relationship of the territory to the French Union, progressively to extend the powers of the Representative Assembly, particularly in the field of legislation."

That recommendation, in our view is, still completely valid, and the Council

should ask for early implementation thereof. We are fully appreciative of the salutary effects of the representation in the Assemblies of the French Union which has been given to the trust territory as a most important phase in the political education of the chosen representatives, but, in our view, there is as much need for political training on the national or territorial level as there is on the international level. Development of the Representative Assembly into a real legislative organ would thus give a well-balanced political training and would be in full accord with the feelings of the people themselves as expressed in the Report of the Visiting Mission and in the petitions before us.

In this regard, I wish to call the attention of this Council to the Visiting Mission's statement, on page 31 of its Report, that even the members of the Representative Assembly itself are determined to do their utmost to extend its powers and competence. On the next page, the Mission observes that many petitions received express the desire to see the Assembly transformed into a legislative assembly. On pages 34 and 35, the Mission notes that, while certain notables expressed appreciation of the territory's representation in the organs of the French Union, complaints were received that, in spite of the special status of the territory, it is treated from the centre on the same footing as if it were a colony, even though obviously certain special legislation might be required for it. It was also stated that the evolution of the Cameroons towards self-government or independence should not be retarded by general legislation covering other territories whose goals might not in every case be the same.

For that reason, we believe that the Council should endorse the view of the Visiting Mission itself, on page 33 of its Report, that the Cameroons is rapidly approaching the time when a sufficient number of its nationals will have reached the stage of maturity required to enable the country to be given a broadly independent legislative assembly elected by a single college on an electoral basis gradually approaching universal suffrage.

Another matter with which we should concern ourselves is the question of establishing the proper relationship between the Representative Assembly on the one hand and the broad masses of the population on the other. We cannot help feeling that there is a kind of vacuum below the Representative Assembly that must be filled. In our view, since the right to vote is still restricted more or less to the élite or more advanced elements of the community, there might be a danger that the Assembly is cut off from real contact with the people and representation of the population as a whole. We feel that, in line with its recommendations of last year, the Council ought to urge the Administering Authority to extend the system of suffrage and press on with the transformation and development of the local Assemblies on a more democratic basis.

In the administration of justice, we note from our study of petitions and of the visiting mission's report that judicial and administrative powers do not seem as yet to have divorced themselves from one another in practice. Administrative officers are still acting as magistrates, and the result is that many people in the territory seem to feel that the old indigenat system, which is supposed to have been abolished, still exists. We appreciate that the problem is to obtain a sufficient number of magistrates, but the Council might urge the Administering Authority to intensify its efforts to appoint more magistrates.

On the international plane, the Council cannot ignore the number of requests contained in the petitions in favour of the unification of the two Cameroons. On this matter, my delegation takes the view that there is a certain amount of logic in these requests for unification - so much so that, even if it is not a real problem now, it may sooner or later become a very real one. It is believed the time is fast approaching when the Council will have to ask the two Administering Authorities jointly what they envisage to be the future of this whole sector of Africa which is at present split up into a number of units, namely, colonies and protectorates and the four Trust Territories of the Cameroons and Togoland. Is it going to be desirable and possible to do some re-drawing of the map of West Africa in order to create a more logical series of units? The Trusteeship Council has a direct interest in that problem, because, as long as we are helping the Trust Territories along the road to self-government or independence, we ought to have some clear idea of just what is at the end of the road.

I will now go into the economic phase.

In the economic field, my delegation has gained, in the words of the visiting mission, "an impression of vigorous and increasing economic activity", for which, in our view, the Administering Authority deserves our highest commendation. But, as the mission also says, this development raises many important problems; and of these, in our opinion, the most important and critical is the question of land.

There seems to be no subject on which Africans generally are more sensitive than on the question of protecting what they believe to be their traditional rights of ownership to their land. This has no doubt given rise to tribal disputes from time immemorial, but, with the coming on to the scene of European immigration, the problem has been greatly intensified. In view of the history of the still recent past, it is not surprising that the Africans view with suspicion any move which the Administering Authority may make in the way of control of land rights, even though such a move may in some cases be designed to protect their own interests.

Thus it is not altogether surprising that we find among the petitions, and in the report of the visiting mission, a good deal of fear and uneasiness as to what is going on in the Cameroons in connection with lands.

We find Africans rushing to apply for the recognition and registration of their titles to land, swamping the administrative staff with work for which it is apparently not adequately staffed. We find Africans complaining that they have difficulty in obtaining recognition of their rights as against the position of the Europeans, who are said to be able to obtain lands without difficulty. We find numerous other complaints about the granting of land to European individuals, companies and missions. We find a whole host of complaints against the policy of the Administration in respect of so-called "vacant and ownerless land". And we find much concern among the Africans about the extent to which huge areas of forest are given out by concessions to Europeans for timber cutting, while, on the other hand, in the face of very widespread opposition, other forest lands are being turned into reservations.

We believe that the Council must take serious note of all these evidences of unrest and dissatisfaction with the various aspects of the land problem. The Council, as has been suggested by the Visiting Mission, should invite the

Administering Authority to provide special and detailed documentation on this subject, and keep the Council informed on the work of the regional study commissions and the Representative Assembly, and on the progress made in revising the system of land tenure. We should also ask the Administering Authority to pay particular attention to measures which might allay the fears of the Africans as far as concerns the reservation of forests and the ceding of timber concessions. The Council should also ask the Administering Authority to provide us next year with a clear and definite statement of its future policy in respect of the granting to Europeans of all types of land concessions and land rights. We would like to find in that statement an indication as to whether, and to what extent, the Administering Authority envisages opening up the Territory to further European colonization, or whether - and this we think is the preferable course - European settlement will be strictly limited, and opportunity will be given eventually to the Africans themselves to take over lands and concessions now held by Europeans.

That in the economic field,

In the social field, the Council should take note of the fact that there has been very little improvement, as between 1947 and 1948, in the position of medical staff in the Territory. There has, in fact, as is shown by the written replies of the Special Representative, been a reduction in the number of European government doctors from 36 to 34, and a reduction in certain other categories of medical workers, particularly nurses and sanitary inspectors.

This should give the Council occasion to draw attention to, and reaffirm, its observations of last year to the effect that it "welcomes the Administering Authority's statement that it is determined to find a way of increasing their number and that in this respect the Territory will soon be adequately equipped." The Council must also take note of the fact that the people themselves seem to be acutely aware of the inadequacy of medical facilities; we have before us no fewer than 20 petitions on the shortcomings of these facilities, especially in the rural areas. In reaffirming its observation of last year, the Council should make a positive recommendation that efforts to extend these facilities be intensified.

On the question of wages, the Council must take note also of the numerous complaints about the low level of wages in the Territory as compared with the cost of living. The Council made quite a strong recommendation on this matter last year, and there is every reason for us to reaffirm it now. We have noted with appreciation that the Administering Authority has already given effect to it in part, in that it ordered a study of standards of living to be made last year. The Council might therefore express the hope that the results of this study be laid before us next year.

We cannot refrain from expressing concern, however, over the several complaints that forced labour still exists in the Trust Territory. Whilst we accept the assurance of the Administering Authority that such practices are not condoned by it, we feel that the Council should urge the Administering Authority to take all necessary steps to remove the impression in the minds of some people that forced labour does still exist. It might be possible to instruct the various responsible administrative officers to be on their guard against any local or incidental practices which might be construed by the people as meaning that forced labour has not been eradicated from the Territory.

We have been equally concerned to note the large number of petitions complaining of various forms of racial discrimination in the Cameroons. Here again we accept the assurance of the Administering Authority that such forms of discrimination as segregation in hotels and restaurants can only be the result of individual actions and are not condoned by the Administration itself. We believe that the Council itself should lend all support in the form of the corresponding recommendation to the Administering Authority to take effective measures to remove all such vestiges of discrimination.

But there are yet allegations of other forms of discrimination for which, if true, the Administering Authority, in our opinion, bears perhaps greater responsibility. There are complaints about discrimination between Africans and Europeans in the matter of public appointments, wages and salaries, and treatment in hospitals and schools. We were assured last year that racial discrimination has been abolished, but it would seem that it has not yet been entirely eliminated. The Council should not be satisfied until conditions of complete equality are achieved between the European and the African, and I think we have grounds for

making a recommendation to the Administering Authority for more effective steps to stamp out all remaining traces and suggestions of discrimination, in practice as well as in theory.

With regard to education, we have already given some sort of a preliminary observation of our admiration for the educational policies of the Administering Authority in the Trust Territory, but we have been rather disappointed to find that progress between 1947 and 1948 has not been all that we hoped for.

According to our reading of the annual report, 20 new public primary schools were opened in 1948 - that is, in addition to those of the 1947 figures - but the attendance figures at the public primary schools rose by less than 1,000 pupils, that is, from 18,600 to 19,067, or an increase of only 467 in public schools. The number of pupils attending private primary schools rose from 95,309 to 98,229, but, in view of the importance which the Council attaches to public instruction, we cannot but view with concern the little advance that has so far been made in that field.

We should note with some concern that the number of European public school teachers fell from 49 to 43, and there was an increase of only two in the number of African teachers. Similarly, the number of European private school teachers fell from 124 to 116, although in this case there was a healthy increase in the number of African teachers.

There was no increase in the number of secondary schools, except for one new private school, although I gather that certain extensions were made to existing schools. There were only slight increases in the attendances at these schools.

The Council should take note of the large number of requests contained in the petitions for an extension of educational facilities. As the Visiting Mission says in its report: "Nearly all the petitions received by the Mission asked for an increase in the number of schools. Some stress the fact that in many villages in the interior the nearest school is still much too remote; others complain that too many children's education is cut short owing to their age". And the Mission adds, on its own account, that "as regards secondary education and teachers' training, opportunities in the Territory are somewhat limited" and that many petitions complain of the inadequacy of secondary education facilities.

The Council will remember that we were concerned last year at the policy of the Administering Authority to do no more, in its ten-year plan, beyond doubling the existing number, on the grounds that it was not desirable to produce more highly educated people than the Territory could absorb. We questioned the wisdom of that policy then, and we have all the more reason to question it now. On the one hand, there is obviously a widespread demand for more secondary education, and on the other hand the general development of the Territory in the next ten years will surely be such that there will be no real limit to the number of educated persons whom the Territory will be able to absorb.

For this reason, my delegation takes the view that, in these circumstances, the Council has a duty to take a more positive stand on these questions than it did last year and therefore to recommend to the Administering Authority that it pursue even more vigorously its efforts to expand educational facilities generally, and, in particular, to revise its programme for secondary schools in order to provide for a much greater increase in the number of secondary schools which are available to the inhabitants.

Mr. LIU (China): My delegation has listened with great interest to this year's discussion of conditions in the Trust Territory of the Cameroons under French administration, and has been particularly impressed by the splendid co-operation which the special representative and also the distinguished representative of France have given to the Council in enlightening us upon various aspects of the annual report.

My delegation considers that, generally speaking, we have been given an encouraging picture of the development of the Trust Territory in the political, economic, social and educational fields. We have been given the impression that the Territory is on the threshold of a new era of widespread development, and it goes without saying that the Council will watch this development with close interest, assuming naturally that the programme is dictated by and designed to meet the requirements and the rights, above all, of the three million Africans who inhabit the Territory.

My delegation believes that the Council will wish to bear in mind that it already has, on the record, a number of recommendations with respect to the Territory which were adopted when the Annual Report for 1947 was discussed last year. We readily acknowledge that, since these recommendations were adopted only in 1949, they could hardly be applicable to the year 1948, which is at present under review. At the same time, however, we believe that the additional information which we have had before us this year, including that contained in the report of the Visiting Mission and in the very many petitions which it has brought back to us, has served to confirm the views which my delegation, and the Council as a whole, expressed last year. The Council might well make an observation to this effect, at the same time expressing the wish that the next annual report will indicate clearly the manner in which its recommendations have been dealt with.

On the plane of political development, the Council's chief concern last year was in respect of the effects which have been, or may be, produced on the status of the Territory by virtue of its association with the French Union. On that occasion the Chinese delegation, while not being unappreciative of the real benefits which the new French Constitution had bestowed on the Trust Territory, was nevertheless concerned that its inclusion in the French Union might tend to channel its development along lines which might make it difficult for its people to evolve freely into a self-governing or independent nation. We were concerned at the immediate effect which this association with the French Union was having on the political development of the Territory, to the extent that, as a result of the fundamental structure of the French Union, legislative power is centralized at the heart of the French Union as a whole, and it is difficult to see how it can be delegated to the Trust Territory. On the other hand, it seemed to us - and it still seems - to be not only desirable but essential that this legislative power should be progressively delegated to the Trust Territory, in order that, at the moment when this process of delegation is complete, the Territory may be pronounced ready, from the political point of view, for self-government or independence.

It appears to us that events have proved that the discussion which the Council held on this matter last year was by no means a mere abstract or hypothetical debate. We now have evidence in the petitions that there is

concern among the people themselves that this restriction imposed by the nature of the structure of the French Union, on the powers of the local representative body, is hindering the process of training in self-government.

The Council should take note of these expressions of opinion on the part of the people, and it should also note that the visiting mission has taken an apparently serious view of the desire that is being expressed, both within and outside the Cameroons Representative Assembly, for the transformation of that Assembly into an organ with real legislative powers. I think that the Council can draw no other conclusion than that the recommendation which it passed last year was entirely justified and deserving of positive action on the part of the Administering Authority: namely, that, irrespective of the present or future relationship of the Territory to the French Union, the powers of the Representative Assembly should be progressively extended, especially in the field of legislation.

Our previous recommendations on the further development of a sense of territorial unity and national consciousness, on the extension of the system of suffrage, on the reform of the local councils of notables, and on the appointment of more Africans to responsible positions, all similarly hold good today. In several respects, they are supported by the petitions before the Council.

So much for the political field..

In the economic and social fields, my delegation considers that the Council should note with some concern the amount of feeling, as is obvious from the petitions and the visiting mission's report, that appears to exist in the Territory on various aspects of the land policy of the Administration, particularly on the questions of the definition of vacant and ownerless land, the classification or setting up of forest reserves, and the granting of concessions to Europeans. We believe that the Council will wish to be supplied regularly with the fullest possible information on these matters, and that it will welcome any steps which the Administering Authority may take to calm the fears of the people that they may be losing their customary rights and privileges.

We have noted from the petitions and the Mission's report that the fears of the Africans in regard to European immigration seem to fall under three different headings: in the first place, they are afraid that too many Europeans

may settle in the Territory and occupy land; secondly, they are afraid of seeing the monopoly of trade and of the country's economic development come more and more into the hands of non-Africans; and, finally, they complain that non-Africans are taking up more and more jobs which Africans could fill.

My delegation believes that the Council as a whole may share the view that, within certain limits and with proper safeguards, an influx of Europeans, especially those possessing technical skills, can be beneficial to the Territory at the present stage of its development. But we believe that the Council will want to take the view that much greater benefit will derive from, and much greater importance should be attached to, the training of Africans themselves in these same technical skills. We should like to see intensive efforts made to give Africans the necessary training not merely to take over administrative and technical posts in the government and in commerce and industry, but also to supplant Europeans as the owners and managers of plantations, businesses, industries and all other enterprises.

In these circumstances, while we may regard, for instance, the importation of Italian labour for certain public works as a useful expedient, the Council should not favour the adoption of such an expedient as normal procedure. It should prefer that efforts be intensified to train Africans to use modern equipment and construction methods, to help them increase their productivity by such incentives as that of awarding much better rates of pay, and therefore to make it no longer necessary to draw labour from outside the Territory.

This leads me to say that the question of African wages remains far from being satisfactory, and, in view of the number of complaints on that score, the Council might do well to draw attention to the recommendation it passed last year urging the Administering Authority to carry out a special study of the problems of wages and standards of living and to take all possible measures to raise the wage level and to improve the standard of living in terms of housing, clothing and medical and social services.

My delegation has been distressed to find among the petitions a number of complaints that racial discrimination still exists in the Trust Territory. This discovery has been all the more disappointing in view of the assurance given to the Council last year that all vestiges of discrimination had been removed. In

spite of this, we find that there are complaints about the segregation of Africans in hotels and similar places, about differentiation between Africans and Europeans in matters of opportunity of employment, wage and salary rates, hospital treatment, prison treatment, and so on. Admittedly, as the special representative has well said, some of these acts of discrimination have resulted from the personal attitudes of individual Europeans, and are not in any way condoned by the Administering Authority itself. But, in the case of the other kinds of discrimination, so long as any distinction or difference in treatment of any kind is applied as between the European and the African, it cannot be reasonably claimed that all vestiges of discrimination have been removed. My delegation therefore considers that the Council has good reason to recommend that the Administering Authority continue to take positive steps to eliminate racial discrimination in any form whatsoever, in order that the practical application of that general tradition of equality for which France is justly renowned need never be called into question.

In the matter of medical and health facilities, my delegation feels that the Council should take note of the shortcomings that still exist, and particularly of the demands set forth in many petitions for more intense efforts to bring adequate medical care within the reach of all. A recommendation noting and supporting these points of view would, we think, be appropriate. These remarks apply similarly to the field of education. Here we would observe that probably as a result of its own achievements in spreading education, the Administering Authority has created among the people/^{an}insatiable thirst for more. It deserves our encouragement to intensify its efforts, and we would suggest that particular attention should be paid to secondary and technical education, since we believe that the pace of economic development in the Territory will be such that the facilities for secondary and technical education will be outstripped by the demand for this higher training and by the need to create an increasing flow of young Africans able to take over for themselves the future economic development of the Territory.

Mr. GERIG (United States of America): May I begin by expressing my appreciation to Mr. Watier for the patience and care with which he has given such detailed information in answer to all our questions. When we add this information to that contained in the Annual Report and the Report of the Visiting Mission we have a very impressive body of documentation on which to base our observations and conclusions. From all this evidence it appears to me, and I am sure to most, if not all, of my colleagues, that France is doing good work in the Cameroons. My own experience in the Cameroons as a member of the Visiting Mission has confirmed this impression and has given me a far better understanding of the difficulties as well as the achievements of the Administering Authority.

I would like to make one further comment before I present the specific observations of my delegation for the consideration of the Council. I have noted a tendency on the part of certain delegations in the Council to draw favourable or unfavourable comparisons between the work of Britain and France in the four West African territories now under discussion. It is of course quite proper and indeed inevitable that we should examine the different methods which the various Administering Authorities employ in tackling similar problems. My

delegation hopes, however, that members of the Council will not lose sight of the fact that, despite methods which are sometimes different, the aims of the Administering Authorities are identical.

We agree with the statement made a few days ago by the representative of France to the effect that such comparisons are of very limited value because conditions in the various territories are usually very different one from the other.

May I now turn to the observations of my delegation in the four fields under discussion. As I remarked in commenting on the administration of the British Cameroons, my delegation has increasingly felt that our recommendations should, so far as possible, be kept within the bounds of reality and practicability. We are therefore limiting our observations to a few problems which have attracted our particular attention.

In the political field, my delegation believes that the Administering Authority should be commended for its recent reorganization of the Councils of Notables to include ten more members on each Council, and to include members of traditional associations, economic and trade union associations, and representatives of employers and workers. This constructive change should have the effect of strengthening and democratizing these organs of local government. At the same time, my delegation believes the Council may wish to express the hope that the Administering Authority, in its plans for the development of these Councils, will give the fullest consideration to the possibility of endowing them with the power to make decisions in certain matters as well as to give advice. Similarly, we believe that consideration might also be given to increasing the functions and powers of the Representative Assembly.

In the economic field, the contribution of the Administering Authority to the economic development of the Cameroons seems to my delegation to be the outstanding feature of the French administration in 1948. My own observations in the area have convinced me of this fact. In the field of agriculture, the Administering Authority has shown itself aware of the dangers of over-expanding commercial production in times of favourable world markets, and has taken a number of steps to encourage the growing of a variety of food crops, as well as

to improve the quality rather than the quantity of export products. The Administering Authority has also made a considerable effort to bring about more effective participation of Cameroonians in the economy of the territory. This has been done largely through associating them in indigenous producing, processing, marketing, and consumers co-operatives, and by providing direct and financial aid to these societies. My delegation believes that the Council should commend the Administering Authority for the establishment of these co-operative organizations, and should express the hope that the Administering Authority will foster as rapidly as possible the participation of Cameroonians in positions of increasing responsibility in these organizations.

I have just one observation to make in the social field. My delegation has noted with approval the increase in the medical services provided by the Administering Authority in the French Cameroons. As the territory advances, however, it is apparent that the number of African doctors with more specialized training will need to be increased. We believe the Council should commend the Administering Authority for its achievement in the medical field during the year under review and should express the hope that the Administering Authority will do its utmost to increase the number of African medical personnel with specialized training.

The Administering Authority has pointed out that a considerable factor limiting the rate of the territory's development is the inadequacy of trained personnel, particularly in technical fields. My delegation noted with interest, therefore, that during the year under review 194 scholarships were granted for study in France. Of these 77 were for secondary education, 33 for technical education, 75 for one-year refresher courses — largely technical in character — 4 for theological study, and 5 for higher education. My delegation believes the Council will wish to commend the Administering Authority for this progress in the educational field. My I also say that my delegation attaches particular importance to the resolution on higher education in the trust territories which was adopted on 19 July, 1949 and which recommended that France should consider the establishment of higher educational facilities in the territory. We hope that the Administering Authority, in its next Report, will be able to indicate what steps it has taken toward implementing this resolution.

Mr. KHALIDY (Iraq): The traveller in the Cameroons under French administration gains the impression at once that apart from the country being a very vast territory, it is buzzing with activity. And the more one travels in this territory, the more one gains the impression that great credit should go to the Administering Authority for fostering, perpetrating and encouraging such activity. This takes place mostly in the economic field but also in all other fields, as I shall presently have occasion to note. The Administering Authority is quite evidently in earnest and intends to make "a going-concern" — I believe this is perhaps the best word — out of this territory, and in this respect the Council would do well to commend the Administering Authority for its efforts.

At this point my delegation wishes to associate itself completely with the recommendations and remarks of the Visiting Mission, which they believe is an excellent Report. In this respect I wish to take occasion to thank the representative of France for the very good and kind words he said yesterday in connection with that Report. I should also like to take occasion to thank Mr. Watier, the Special Representative, for his kind reference to this Report. We therefore need not labour any further on the territory except to point out a few salient facts.

Much progress has indeed been made in the political field. I should like to take this occasion to say a few words on the subject of traditional institutions and the way the French administration has addressed itself to it. I have said once before that different Administering Authorities treat the colonial question in different ways. I gained the impression -- and I am liable to correction here -- that France accords due respect to traditions and to traditional institutions in the territory. The administration is strongly of the opinion that progress in its general aspects is of paramount importance and that wherever general progress, or general unity, or general improvement might clash with traditional institutions, perhaps the general progress should claim priority.

This is the impression I have gained, and if it is correct -- and I believe it is a correct impression -- I should like to say that my delegation accords it the utmost approval, and I would recommend that the Council do likewise. Traditional institutions are of great value, but you have territories here which

are more or less backward. I am sorry to have to use this word, but I do not intend to convey any bad implication. Many territories in the world are backward in one sense or another and they have to submit to modern inroads, modern progress and modern institutions. There is no other way of making them "a going concern", and no other way of making them go forward side by side with other countries and benefit by modern advantages. In that respect I believe that the Council would do well to commend the Administering Authority with respect to that policy.

The Council of Notables is another commendable action instituted by the Administering Authority. It is a local organ of government which enables the Administration to keep in better touch with the Notables and, ultimately, with the people. As to the Representative Assembly, I believe that it is an organ of great value and, no doubt, the Council will look toward a future day when it will become a truly Representative Assembly in the sense that it will have powers of legislation. And in that respect I would associate myself with the previous speakers who touched upon this subject.

In connection with the economic problem, the question of low wages has engaged the attention of the Council. I said yesterday that it is difficult to see how such a question could be overcome completely. The question of wages which would cope with the rising standard of living is a world-wide problem. There are times when many of us, and perhaps I myself, do not think that we are quite adequately paid, considering our talents; and to a certain extent everybody thinks the same thing. This is certainly connected with the general economic fabric of the territory. And I would suggest that, more than the question of low wages, the general question of the economic fabric of the territory should be reviewed from time to time in order to see whether the wages, among other elements are sufficient to cope with the standard of living or the rising cost of living.

I should like to revert once again — and I am sure that the Council is now completely tired of it — to what I have previously referred to as "the triangle" — the question of roads, schools and health. The roads in the French Cameroons are fairly adequate and commendation must be accorded to the Administering Authority for its zeal in facilitating the road system and doing

what it could about it. However, it certainly leaves something to be desired. There is nothing in the world which is so perfect that it does not leave anything to be desired. The more of it the better. As a matter of fact, these three elements could sustain the saying that they are adequate and they are good, but the more the better. My French colleague would probably say that they have a proverb which says that "the better is the enemy of the good", and that is true.

With respect to the question of health and medical facilities, I must admit that one is most favourably struck by the abundance and the activities of the health services in the French Cameroons. Hospitals and dispensaries are full of activity, and the hospitals are fairly well adequate, although, once again, the more the better. The more hospitals you put up in that vast and backward country, the more gratitude you will gain on the part of the population. But a commendation here would not be out of place.

I should like to express admiration in connection with the educational field. That is one aspect which I believe has been rather lightly touched upon. I believe that this is the one territory which the Visiting Mission visited that had two museums of craftsmanship. The Administration has taken the trouble of organising two small museums to preserve the local and indigenous art. Near one of the museums there is a centre of craftsmanship, which is of appreciable value, and I believe that some of the members of the Visiting Mission bought a few things there as souvenirs. This sort of thing is a commendable effort and I believe that it could provide an example to other Administering Authorities so that, whenever possible, they could preserve the indigenous art and encourage local art itself.

There is a great thirst for knowledge in the territory. This at once calls for more schools and more facilities but, at the same time, it is proof of the effort which the Administering Authority has so far put into the territory. It is a territory which is thirsting for knowledge and schools,

That is the case. There are a great number of schools in the territory and the Administration is pouring money into these schools. Education is free. The students are fed and in many cases they are clad, and they have been provided with adequate school buildings, all at the expense of the Administration. This should draw the admiration and commendation of the Council.

I have noticed that household schools, or schools for girls, have been given a very important place in the system. The Administration apparently has not fallen short of the very sane view that girls must have equal opportunity of education in the same way as boys. And to that end the Visiting Mission has, with utter admiration, seen the effort of the Administration along this line. There was one particular case which it is difficult to forget. There was a French woman who presided over a small school dealing with household activities. The Mission visited that school and spoke with the indigenous girls, somewhat at length, on various topics, and left the school, as I said, with a feeling of great admiration. Those girls are acquiring the best possible knowledge. I remember that we talked to them about the question of polygamy. I wish to cite that as an example before the Council. They said that they would not marry a man who has another wife or who would want to marry more than one wife. I am citing that to show how good modern education can change views. Naturally, in the end it is bound to change the whole country into a better one, and that I believe is the real purpose of the trusteeship system and, no doubt, the effort of the Administering Authority.

My delegation regrets that apparently, for the time being, there is no possibility of establishing one language. Mr. Watier corrected me yesterday by saying that there are more than a hundred languages. That is true in the territory. When I said yesterday that an American missionary told me that there were about sixty languages, he was speaking only of the locality in which his mission was situated. I cannot remember exactly where the locality was. It was probably in the middle of the country. The country is so vast that one cannot remember every detail about it. The fact that there are a hundred languages in the country presents quite an apparent difficulty for having one language established and imposed on all the other populations and tribes, so as to establish a "lingua franca". I do not know how this could be done, but if

it can be done at all, it would certainly receive the warm support of my delegation, inasmuch as that would be denoting an element of national unity and common bond between the people of the territory.

These are some general remarks I wished to make. I would say that there is no need to labour the question, since we have been very adequately serviced in that regard. We have a full report of the annual activities of the Administration; we have the Visiting Mission's Report; and we have all the other documents before us. I would therefore close with one remark: The more the better, of Africans participating in all aspects of life in the Cameroons. I believe the Administration holds to this policy. It is a commendable policy in itself, and they are ever-driving along that line. More Africans, more schools, more roads and more health. I do not know what is left, but I will leave it to the Administration to add to it.

The Acting PRESIDENT (Interpretation from French): We shall now take a short recess, and after we resume, the representative of the United Kingdom will be the first speaker.

The meeting was suspended at 4.55 p.m. and was resumed at 5.20 p.m.

Mr. FLETCHER-COOKE (United Kingdom): I made most of the observations that I wish to make on this Report in the course of the question period, and I should like to take this opportunity once again of thanking the representative of France and the special representative for the way in which they have answered not only my questions but the questions put by other members of the Council. It has been most helpful in amplifying the Report. It is quite clear, and I have indicated this in more detail in connexion with particular points, that the Administering Authority is administering the Territory with a firm determination to carry out the principles and the objectives which are set out in the Trusteeship Agreement. I have referred to a number of aspects of their work which I think merited commendation, and I would only refer to one further small point which I think also deserves favourable comment.

I observe that the Administering Authority has created a single salary scale in the teaching cadres which, coupled with an expatriation allowance for Europeans, by placing Europeans and Africans on the same salary scale emphasises a principle which we have frequently attempted to emphasise both in this Council and in discussions in the Fourth Committee, namely, that although there must of necessity, in our view, be differences between the salary scales of Africans and Europeans doing the same work, that is largely represented by the fact that the European is working as an expatriate away from his home, whereas the African is working in his own environment. We therefore note with interest the fact that the Administering Authority has made that approach with which we are in agreement perfectly clear by fixing the basic salary on the same scale but by providing for an expatriation allowance.

One final point as regards the question of land tenure. Although the impression is given in the Report that African interests are safeguarded, and we feel sure that they are, we feel that it might be desirable if the Administering Authority could see its way to give in the Report a more detailed and quantitative statement of the actual position, so that it will be made clear beyond all doubt that the approach to the problem, which, as I have indicated, we feel certain the Administering Authority has, should be made abundantly clear.

The Acting PRESIDENT (Interpretation from French): If there are no further remarks of a general character, I shall call on the representative of the Administering Authority.

Mr. LAURENTIE (France) (Interpretation from French): To begin with, I should like to express the gratitude of the French delegation and of the French Government to all the speakers who have spoken in the Council and who have brought to the task we are carrying out in the Cameroons a very valuable encouragement.

Nothing can be more useful for the Administering Authority than to feel that its efforts are being understood, that they are contemplated here in a realistic spirit and with the desire to assist in the interests of the welfare of the Africans. I will not repeat what I have already said regarding the excellent work accomplished by the Visiting Mission. I would simply note that the two things, the discussion in the Council and the Report of the Visiting Mission, complete each other very happily and will certainly be of great value to the local administration and the Government of my country.

I shall now pass to the observations which have been made in the various fields and which may, in certain cases, call for more or less important comments which are necessary for the information of the Council. I should like to speak first of all in regard to the political questions. Yesterday or the day before, I had occasion to explain to the Council how, in 1945 and 1946, France insisted upon undertaking political reforms in Africa, especially in the trust territories, by starting from the top instead of the bottom. She did so believing that this was the most appropriate and, in any case, the most rapid manner of arriving at a break in the kind of circle of subordination in which the African population had thus far been enclosed. We realise full well that the edifice thus built is incomplete and that, on certain points, it may still be open to criticism or remarks. In the first place, I think it is useful to recall, as was said by the representative of Iraq, that there is not such a very great contradiction between a certain respect due to traditional institutions and this political evolution which has been registered in new forms and in so called imported ways. It is impossible to imagine that we would destroy the whole family and social structure of the African continent, but, on the other hand, it is quite possible to imagine that this family and social structure may find its place in the new institutions bit by bit.

I have quoted the case of members of the Representative Assembly of the Cameroons who, being traditional chiefs, are also representatives of the population and have, therefore, arrived at a reconciliation between former times and the future.

However, I believe that it is not on this point that most of the comments

have been made. I think greater importance has been attached to the fact that the territory belongs to the French Union and that, through this very fact, there might be a danger of its political development being delayed, if not prevented. In this respect, I should say that, ^{when in} 1946, the territory of the Cameroons benefitted - and I use that word intentionally - from reforms which constitute the structure of the French Union as a whole, the territory of the Cameroons took a considerable step forward at one time. At the end of 1946, new institutions were created, which only started to function in 1947. Therefore, it has hardly been three years since this step forward was taken. It is perhaps premature to say, therefore, that here and now we are enclosed within a system which delays development. I think this would be all the more unjust in that we have seen that, whatever may be the attraction exercised by the right of suffrage, it is only gradually that the various strata of electors are reached. We are far from having attained the number of electors which should normally apply to the Cameroonian population as a whole.

Moreover, I believe - and I will return to this later - that there are really other conditions for the development of a country such as the Cameroons towards independence, and I sincerely believe that, for the time being, there is a very precise adaptation of French political institutions to the stage of development and evolution of the Territory. It would certainly be presumptuous to wish, for the time being, to assume that we have already gone beyond the stage where the benefit - if we like to use the term of the French Constitution of 1946 - may be appreciated. On the other hand, I would be quite in agreement on another point which has been raised: that is the question of the gaps to be filled in the political and administrative structure of the Cameroons. No doubt, having begun at the top, we find ourselves in the lower stages with certain gaps which must be filled. It is certain that councils of notables which have been perfected should be perfected even more and that their activities should be developed. It is certain that municipalities should be multiplied within the Territory and that, in a general way, everything which is a matter of local concern or local administration should gradually be placed more and more within the reach of Africans, in order that the education of all - that is, political and administrative education - should be possible at all stages, so that we should have a perfectly constructed edifice in which each one finds his place. I would therefore willingly agree with any recommendation of the Council inviting the Administering Authority to be specially concerned with this point, which, of course, is of special concern to the Council.

There remains a point which is important for some of my colleagues here at present: that is the question of the legislative powers of the Representative Assembly. On this point, as was rightly pointed out by the representative of the Philippines a short time ago, I have already had occasion to give explanations regarding the somewhat particular character of French administration, which draws a distinction between the law and regulations.

I think I may say to the Council today that, in the field of regulations, there is no doubt that the concern of the French Government is to develop, as far as possible, the competence of the Representative Assembly. On the other hand, I do not believe that there is any urgency; that is to say, that during the next twelve months it will ^{not} be necessary to consider the covering of a new

additional stage. The Council has had a certain number of examples during the discussion which has just taken place. It has been told what was the principle of the granting of concessions of more than 200 hectares by the Representative Assembly, and that the grant of concessions of less than 200 hectares was also to be attributed to the Representative Assembly. That, I believe, goes very far beyond the purely financial field in order to reach the actual administration of the Territory - what, in English, is called the government of the Territory - and I really do not see what great difference there can be between an Assembly which is master of the Budget and therefore of a great part of the personnel - which is master of economic development, which is master of this question of concessions and which thereby exercises a direct influence on questions of immigration - and an Assembly which would be considered as a self-governing Assembly in an actually independent State or territory.

I think it is appropriate that the Council should not be too narrowly attached to differences which are more literal differences than differences of substance. We can, in any case, give the assurance today that, in regard to the administration - what would be called in English, the government - of the Territory, the Representative Assembly will enjoy ever-increasing powers. And I think that, for the time being, it would be realistic to consider that we must remain - I do not say stop where we are today - with the promise which is made, that this continual increase of the powers of the Representative Assembly will be ensured.

But the point which appears to me very important, and to which I would draw the attention of the Council, is the following: it is obvious that in 1945 and 1946 we sought to ensure a regime of freedom for the Africans of the Territory, the Cameroonians.

The representative of Iraq told us that, in his opinion, this system of freedom would only bear fruit if the Administration met the threefold objective of roads, hospitals and schools. I quite agree with him and I do not think that we can conceive of actual political development or actual access to political freedom - either individually or territorially - if there is not this preliminary basis of roads, hospitals and schools. I do not think there is any possible doubt on this point. I would add one thing, however:

I am not sure that even roads, hospitals and schools put together will actually be sufficient to ensure the basis without which there cannot be an actual political structure of a healthy character. I think we must also contemplate the actual economy of the Territory. On this point various remarks have been made and I might even say a certain number of compliments have been addressed to us. I think, nevertheless, it is useful to delve more deeply into this question than we have done so far. Not only can there be no roads, hospitals or schools without an economy, but it is obvious that the maintenance of these roads, hospitals and schools also requires a developed economy, otherwise - as I believe the representative of Belgium once pointed out to the Council - we shall see magnificent hospitals remaining empty because doctors and nurses cannot be paid or because the equipment cannot be maintained.

But there is an additional reason for which it is absolutely essential to have this healthy economy: that is, not only to ensure budgetary equilibrium, to ensure equilibrium in trade balances, but also - I repeat - to direct the indigenous population towards what will be actual independence, because, once again, in my opinion, there cannot be actual independence without these economic means.

What economic means? We might say that we are attempting to place at the disposal of the Cameroonians the means which exist in their territory. That, of course, is not sufficient in itself. We must create new methods of production and these new methods of production must be placed at the disposal of the inhabitants. That is exactly what may enable us finally to achieve the freedom of the Territory and the freedom of the individuals in the Territory. I believe that the ten-year plan very correctly meets the concern which one may have in this respect. I also believe that the Edéa Dam, which will give electric power where it did not exist before, will create a new means in the hands of the population of the Cameroons. The Edéa Dam is one of the instruments by which actual independence or self-government will gradually be achieved from an economic point of view.

We might also quote other possible means, and this morning, when we were discussing petitions concerning the boundary between the British and French Cameroons, it was said both to my British colleague and myself that we should

seek to reduce, as far as possible, these economic boundaries, in order to ensure the prosperity of the populations living on both sides of the boundary. The subject might be developed, of course, but I think that the members of the Visiting Mission, for instance, may realize quite well that a conception of this kind, applied carefully on the spot, might give great results as regards the cultivation of groundnuts or any other scheme around the south of Lake Chad.

By whom can this creation and placing at the disposal of Africans of new methods of production, of new economic means, be done, and how can it be done? It is obvious that only the Administering Authority can do it. That does not mean that assistance will be refused, but it is quite obvious that such an undertaking can only be ensured and can only succeed if it is absolutely continuous and if it is directed by concern for improving the conditions of a given population for which one has the responsibility.

All this can only be done with a great deal of effort, a great deal of money and technical competence and also disinterestedness. I insist on the fact that we need a great deal of effort and money, because it is quite certain that such an undertaking, which will consist in economic liberation of the Territory of the Cameroons, can only really be carried out at the expense of France. Of course, if some assistance can be found here and there, it would not be refused, but the continuity of investment can only come from the generosity of the Administering Power, a generosity which, in the economic field, will be the absolute equivalent of the generosity which we have shown in the political field by trying to break the circle of subordination to which I referred a little while ago. That is why I believe I should underscore this point.

I believe that the representative of China mentioned the fact - and that comments were made - of Italian labour being used on the Edéa Dam. The question is: what do we want? Do we really want to create something which will later constitute the capital of the Territory and the capital of the African population of the Territory, or do we not want this? If we want it, we must use the means to this end, and these means are not within the Territory.

We have to seek them elsewhere. The money is not in the Territory, the specialized labour is not in the Territory; therefore we must go and find the money elsewhere. We find the money in France and the qualified labour we take wherever we can find it. It happens that we have found the necessary assistance in Italy, but we must realize the fact that such co-operation by Italian labour is intended and will result solely in constituting the capital which will finally liberate the population of the Cameroons.

If things did not occur in this way, what would happen? What might occur is that in countries or territories of great riches, whose natural resources are extremely extensive, we might, through/bringing into play of supply and demand, achieve actual prosperity, from which the population as a whole would benefit. I do not think that is the case in the Cameroons. I do not believe that the Cameroons in itself is a country having sufficient wealth or resources for the simple play of investment, so as to create a wide enough prosperity which would benefit the population as a whole. What would happen is that the development would take place, nevertheless, but it would be a very slow process. It would happen that certain investments would remain sterile as far as the territory is concerned. The fact of opening up a mine, for instance, and of exporting the ore abroad does not constitute for the population as a whole, or even for a part of the Cameroon population, a sufficient advantage or a sufficiently rapid advantage. Therefore, the very slowness of the development would be the almost inevitable result of this procedure, this somewhat/^{simple}process of undertaking the economic development of the territory. And what would happen in the political field -- and I might say in the moral field-- is that the sentiment for independence or political freedom, as it makes rapid progress, would finally lead the population to actual self-government in the territory, but it would be self-government which would not rest upon the basis of a population that would be economically healthy; it would simply be an elite of wealth which would benefit by political reforms and which would benefit exclusively for itself. It would be a kind of false independence which would be constituted for the benefit of a small number of wealthy people, and the rest would in point of fact be completely set aside from this elite.

Mention has been made of the question of salaries. I believe that as far as salaries are concerned, many things, of course, have already been said in the Council, but the question is placed more or less on the same plane. It seems probable that in the psychological conditions in which the African finds himself to-day, and in the economic circumstances in which he still finds himself, the salary alone is not a sufficient stimulant to make him work more in an economy which, in fact, is too much of a short-term economy. We have to widen this economy; we have to open it up; we have to provide as its basis the mass of the population. This economy must also cease to be directed from outside and

towards the outside. It must fall back upon itself, or it must, in any case, ensure within the territory an autonomy which does not exist at the present time. And it is at that time that the question of salaries will be solved. Naturally, as several representatives have asked us, we are quite prepared to present information next year with respect to the standard of living.

I am convinced that as far as the standard of living is concerned, the only real method of raising it is to introduce within the territory new sources of power, new methods of production, and it must be the masses which will finally benefit by these methods of production. In the circumstances, professional education of Africans — a question upon which the representative of China very rightly insisted a short while ago — will find its proper use. And at that time, just as I spoke of a political structure and a completely coherent character, there will also be an economic structure which will be just as coherent, and which is our purpose, also to the same extent as the political structure I referred to.

Before concluding, I should like to deal with several points which were a matter of specific concern on the part of the members of the Council, and especially having to do with the question of vacant lands without owners.

It is true that at the present time, as the Special Representative has told us in very specific terms, there is a sentiment toward claims, to be found in the African population. It is also true that so far our legislation does not provide complete satisfaction which may result from this sentiment. We have to determine what would be expedient for us to do and how we should study and deal with the question, in the months and years to come. I think that it is wise to consider the question not only from the point of view of present-day petitioners whatever may be the actual value of their enquiry — but also from the point of view of the future economy of the territory.

I think that we may truly set aside the question of European colonisation as constituting a possible danger for the African population as a whole and for African agriculture in the Cameroons. I believe that in this respect, as requested by the representative of the Philippines, we shall provide all information required in next year's report. But I do not think that there is any danger here

In fact, it is not on this specific point that the claims of the Africans, as a whole, bear. What the Africans want is that their rights of property be recognised. How far can their property rights — which of course cannot be regulated according to our own rules of property rights — be recognised, and in what manner? It would appear to be appropriate to give satisfaction, in a general way, to the Cameroon population on this point. But it also appears that it would be unwise for the economic future of the territory. And if we consider the material and physical interests of the population in the years to come, it would be unwise to give up the idea of vacant lands. It would also be unwise to give up entirely legislation which would enable us to classify and register forests.

As regards forest land, we may take examples of other countries and in that way I think we would better understand the question. In France, for instance, under feudal law, the State, for centuries and centuries, has become the owner of a great part of the forests, and in this way the forest land of France has been preserved. And nowadays the whole of French agriculture is happy at this preservation. On the other hand, we have seen forest land placed in private competition and in the private field. The result has very often been disastrous. The wealth of the land has disappeared, often in a few years, not to mention the loss of electric power, which had been the result of this de-forestation. I think that in Africa we are dealing with rights of usage in forests, which may quite well be recognised and regulated, and receive a form of legislative consecration that will be quite possible. But it would be unwise and imprudent on the part of the Administration, in the interest of the future of the indigenous inhabitants themselves, to refuse to retain the forest land as a whole. I think that the same applies to land property as a whole, and that would also be dangerous. With the excuse that certain rights exist — and there is no doubt that they do exist everywhere — it would be dangerous not to be able to reserve the actual ownership of the land for economic uses at a later stage, the need of which may very well be felt.

I think there is no contradiction between the fact of the recognition of property rights or the rights of use over land, which exists at the present time almost everywhere in the territory of the Cameroons, and the maintaining of conditions which will later enable us to ensure the agricultural and perhaps industrial balance in the territory, thanks to the fact that certain lands or certain areas of forest land will not have been unwisely alienated to-day.

I think that if the Council would allow the Administering Authority to remain between these two terms, it would be easy to give the population an actual and real satisfaction and, at the same time, to ensure its future, in conditions of which it is not quite well aware to-day.

Various remarks have been made concerning justice, and it is quite certain, that we are absolutely prepared, as requested by the representative of the Philippines, to ensure the complete disappearance from the minds of everybody of the idea that the "indigenat" should remain. That is simply a work of propaganda or of explanation which will be carried out by the Administrators,

As regards the question of unification — and the representative of the Philippines/^{requested} the delimiting or retracing of frontiers — I shall be much more prudent. I think that these questions have been included in petitions, and I would point out that several times during our discussion a certain number of petitions have been referred to, whereas they have not actually been examined, so far, as to their substance.

Some of these petitions are of great value and we are quite prepared to give them satisfaction. Others are of much less value and I do not think they can be invoked as irrefutable witnesses. I think that very often these witnesses may be doubted as to their good intentions, and even as to their sincerity.

With regard to the medical facilities to be developed and the increase in the number of African doctors, suggested by the representative of the United States of America, it is certain that the Administering Authority will make all possible efforts to increase the development of the medical services, which has always been one of our major concerns. The same applies to the suppression of the idea that forced labour would be a lasting practice.

As regards racial discrimination, I must say to my colleague from China that we are not responsible, after all, if a hotel keeper or a restaurant proprietor does not admit Africans into his establishment. That is a responsibility which France really cannot take. If we did, we should be placed before a court, before which I fear a great number of other States would also have to be placed.

As regards the intentions of the French Administration, I think we should be judged on the general situation. I think we should repeat what we said last year, that there is actually no racial discrimination within the French system, and if individuals happen to violate a principle which we consider as absolute, these individuals will be punished, as they have been already, and with greater severity if necessary. But I do not think that the case will arise.

There remain only two points, which arise from the remarks made by the representative of the Philippines^{and Iraq} on education. The representative of the Philippines said that in education, which at the time of the consideration of the 1947 Report appeared generally good, he had not noted any sufficient progress with regard to the period covered by the 1948 Report. I was under the impression that the explanation given by the special representative as regards, among other things, the number of teachers would have been sufficient. I feel that the question of education should not be judged as a whole on a period of twelve months, nor on figures which may be affected by the sending of a certain number of teachers on home leave. I believe that in this respect the efforts which have been made both in primary education and secondary education, and also in higher education now, are such that we may be believed when we say that they

will be continued in exactly the same rhythm as they were undertaken.

On the question of languages raised by the representative of Iraq, I think it is not necessary to renew the discussions which have often taken place either here or in other bodies of the United Nations. We are convinced that, just as the political reforms undertaken in 1945 and 1946 have liberated the indigenous inhabitants, and just as the economic programme which at present is being implemented will lead to the liberation of the indigenous inhabitants, so also are teaching in French and French teaching a proof of his future liberation. We think that it would not be progress but quite the contrary in the Cameroons -- this applies to any other territory, but especially to the Cameroons -- if we had to invent a kind of esperanto which in fact would not meet any real need and would not create any international link. If there is the beginning of a national link in the Cameroons, it has been created precisely by the French language. It is the fact of speaking French in every part, and the fact of speaking in French to representatives, whether they are members of the Representative Assembly or representatives in the French Assembly, which will give everyone the idea that a revolution has been carried and is continuing. I think the other way really would be going backwards; I could quote many examples of this, but I do not think it is necessary to insist upon the point.

These are the remarks I wished to make, I think I have covered the field, at any rate so far as the essential points which were raised during the discussion, and I thank the Council for the patience they have shown in listening to me.

The Acting PRESIDENT (Interpretation from French): With that very interesting final statement from the representative of the Administering Authority we can consider our study of the Report on the French Cameroons to be terminated. As we proceeded with this study, we made our comments upon the Report of the Visiting Mission and upon the other items of the agenda. I think I shall be expressing the feelings of everyone if I extend the congratulations of the Council to the Visiting Mission for its excellent work. If there is a final remark to be made on this point, I think we can regard these congratulations as that remark and thus dispose of the item.

We have to appoint our working group to prepare the report of the Council. Looking at the distribution of the various delegations among the different Committees, I would suggest a working group consisting of the representatives of Belgium, the United Kingdom, the Philippines and the Dominican Republic. Does the Council agree to that?

Mr. FLETCHER-COOKE (United Kingdom): At an earlier stage in our deliberations, when there was some discussion on the composition of the Committee on Ruanda-Urundi, when the United Kingdom delegation accepted very reluctantly, I pointed out that in the course of this session we shall have two United Kingdom Territories upon which reports are to be prepared and in respect of which the United Kingdom would be represented on the committees without a vote. In addition to that, the United Kingdom was a member of the Ruanda-Urundi Committee, which would mean that the United Kingdom would have to participate in the work on three of the reports out of four. I therefore would ask that my delegation be excused from this task.

Mr. RYCKELINS (Belgium) (Interpretation from French): I think it would be regrettable if the committee to prepare the report on the French Cameroons did not contain at least one member of the Visiting Mission.

The Acting PRESIDENT (Interpretation from French): That would mean either the United States of America or Iraq. But I would point out that already the United States is a member of another Committee and we envisage the possibility of two committees working simultaneously if necessary. That is not an unsurmountable difficulty, however. The United States of America is an Administering Power and was on the Visiting Mission.

Mr. GERIG (United States of America): I think it would be preferable if the representative of Belgium would agree to serve on this drafting committee. The members of the Visiting Mission, like myself, were only able to spend about two weeks in this Territory, but the representative of Belgium has spent a good many years in this Territory.

Mr. RYCKMANS (Belgium)(Interpretation from French): I have not refused for Belgium.

The Acting PRESIDENT (Interpretation from French): I understand the position of the representative of Belgium. He would regret it if there were no member of the Visiting Mission on the Committee. We can begin by replacing the United Kingdom with another Administering Authority. Could the United States take the place of the United Kingdom? Or Iraq?

Mr. KHALIDY (Iraq): There was never a question of the non-administering powers on this committee; the discussion is about the administering powers on the committee. The suggestion of the inclusion of the Philippines and the Dominican Republic still stands, so that makes up half the committee. The question concerns the Administering Authorities. The Council is talking about Belgium and the United States.

The ACTING PRESIDENT (Interpretation from French): Then the United States will take the place of the United Kingdom. That will provide the Committee with a member of the Visiting Mission. If the Council agrees, we shall consider that as having been decided.

The Committee, then, will consist of representatives of Belgium, the United States, the Philippines and the Dominican Republic.

PROGRAMME FOR FRIDAY.

The ACTING PRESIDENT (Interpretation from French): The Committee which is preparing the report on the British Cameroons will meet to-morrow at 10.30 a.m. in Room 10.

The Committee on Petitions will meet to-morrow afternoon at 3 o'clock in Room F.3.

Since we have completed our study of the French Cameroons, the Council will discuss the statute for Jerusalem at 10.45 to-morrow morning and at 3 o'clock to-morrow afternoon.

The meeting rose at 6.15 p.m.