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Held at Flushing Meadow, New York,
on Friday, 6 July 1951, at 2.00 p.m.

President:

Sir Alan BURNS

(United Kingdom)

Note: The Official Record of this meeting, i.e., the summary record, will appear in provisional mimeographed form under the symbol T/SR.367 and will be subject to representatives' corrections. It will appear in final form in a printed volume.

EXAMINATION OF ANNUAL REPORTS OF ADMINISTERING AUTHORITIES ON THE ADMINISTRATION OF TRUST TERRITORIES: CAMEROONS UNDER FRENCH ADMINISTRATION, FOR THE YEARS 1949 AND 1950 (T/788, 903, 910; T/L.182)

The PRESIDENT: We shall begin consideration this afternoon of the annual reports on the Cameroons under French Administration. I shall call first on the representative of France.

Mr. PIGNON (France) (interpretation from French): The French delegation is ready to begin discussion on the annual reports on the Cameroons under French Administration for the years 1949 and 1950, and would be grateful if the President would authorize Mr. Watier, the Special Representative for the Territory, to take a seat at the Council table.

At the invitation of the President, Mr. Watier, Special Representative for the Cameroons under French administration, took a place at the Trusteeship Council table.

The PRESIDENT: We are very glad to welcome Mr. Watier, and hope that he will be able to assist us in our consideration of these reports.

Mr. WATIER (Special Representative for the Cameroons under French Administration) (interpretation from French): First of all I should like to thank the President for his words of welcome.

In opening the session of the Cameroons Representative Assembly of 16 January 1950, the High Commissioner, Mr. Soucadaux, made the following statement

"A principle which seems to me fundamental, and which common sense elicits from an examination of the facts, is the necessity for rigorous economy of forces. However important our achievements, they are still little enough in relation to what still remains to be done. What is more, everything impresses urgency upon us -- the time which is passing, the aspirations of the Territory, our keen desire to achieve everything which is lacking, our bitterness as we compare the list of what is desirable with the means which we actually have at hand, and the impatience of all concerned at the unavoidable delays in fulfilling our aspirations.

"All these needs impose economy of forces if the best possible result is to be obtained. From this fact flow simple principles for action -- the discipline of action itself, the hierarchy of needs and equilibrium between work and yield."

This statement of the head of the Territory qualifies the action of the Administering Power during the two years which the Council now has to consider. This action, both in the political field and in the field of economic and social achievement, has been dominated by the same regard for economy of forces from which have sprung the principle reforms which mark this period.

In the international field the most import event was the establishment of contact between the Cameroons and the Trusteeship Council. In January 1949 the Special Representative for the Cameroons was called to defend before the Council the report for 1947. In the same year a Visiting Mission of the Trusteeship Council made a stay in the Cameroons for the first time. It is not necessary to dwell at length on the result of these contacts, which has been set forth fully here in connexion with the discussion of the Visiting Mission's report. Let us point out, however, that the people of the Cameroons were greatly impressed by the visit of the delegation from the Trusteeship Council, and that even in the most remote areas they were very conscious of the special status of the Territory and of the privileges which they derived therefrom.

Other personalities belonging to the specialized agencies of the United Nations have also visited the Territory. These include, notably, Dr. Barkhus of WHO, and Mr. Philippe Soupault, a representative of UNESCO. ECA has also shown an interest in the Territory, and several missions from this body visited the Cameroons both in 1949 and in 1950.

The participation of the Cameroons in African life was marked in a striking manner by the International Conference of African Transport which was held at Dschang in November 1950, as well as by visits of high officials belonging to neighbouring African territories, French, English and Belgian.

In internal policy this period was marked by an administrative reform designed to simplify the relations between the regions and the capital. This reform was shown, among other things, by the creation of four new regions, a creation which represents in part a return to the previous organization which the needs of war economy had compelled us to simplify. The reform of the Councils of Notables, which have become regional councils, was carried out during this period. The democratic spirit which inspired this reform encountered in certain places a certain amount of resistance on the part of the conservative elements, but it would appear that the population as a whole welcomed it with favour. We may expect a great deal from an organization which more closely associates indigenous inhabitants with the administration of their modest interests.

We have had occasion to point out the fact that the setting up of an electoral body of qualified electorate was intended to take a greater and greater extension, and we note that the number of registered persons on the electoral lists passed from about 12,000 in 1946 to 77,000 in 1949, and to 116,000 in 1950. On the occasion of the legislative elections of 1951, the electoral law revised the body of the electoral qualified persons in order to include a much greater number of electors, and a new step towards universal suffrage has thus been taken. Although we are speaking here of events in the year 1950, it is not inopportune to point out that in spite of the speed of the application of the application of this new law, the Cameroons electors has now passed to 503,000.

The electoral reform which has now been started and which has had four years of application is functioning to the satisfaction of the litigants. The separation between political and judicial power is becoming more and more marked by the arrival in the Territory of a great number of career magistrates. As to civil justice, it continues to be administered by the customary tribunals, the number of which has been multiplied.

In the economic field, the situation in the Territory continues to show considerable progress. Foreign trade shows a constant rise. Exports have passed from 211,900 tons in 1949 to 224,000 tons in 1950. Imports have amounted to 210,260 tons in 1949 and 226,000 tons in 1950. For the first time in the

history of the Cameroons, the figure of imports is higher than that of exports. We do not see here the sign of the systematic indebtedness of the Territory, but rather the sign of the ardour with which the Cameroons are continuing their internal modernization of their economy. The difference which appears between revenue of exports and the price of imports is compensated, for the major part, by credits which the metropolis is granting under the ten-year plan. These credits, for the major part, constitute a final donation.

With regard to the social field, the Cameroons continues the general development of school and health work. The respective reports indicate the progress achieved in these fields. Let us simply point out that the school population shows a rapid increase both in the first degree and in secondary education, and that the Cameroons already has in the metropolis 221 scholars who are receiving the necessary higher and technical education for the creation of high indigenous positions. The basic structure of public health remains what we described in previous reports. Our financial means and health construction and also the health personnel, show a satisfactory progress on all points. On the other hand, the social service created in 1949, and the housing and urban development services are also dealt with, and we are attempting to bring the best possible solution to these problems.

Thus the Cameroons continues to advance along the way to political and social advancement, which has been indicated by the Administering Power, and these improvements have thus far received the approval of the Trusteeship Council.

That, in its main lines, is a picture of what the Administering Power has done for the two years with which we are concerned. I have not dealt at greater length on this presentation, as I know by experience that the questions which will be put to the Special Representative will perhaps help to elucidate all points upon which the Trusteeship Council may wish to have clarification.

The PRESIDENT: We are very much obliged to the Special Representative. The Council will now proceed with questions relating to political advancement in the Cameroons under French administration.

Mr. DAVIN (New Zealand): I have a few questions on political advancement which I would like to ask the Special Representative. On pages 34 and 35 of the report there is a description of the electorate in the Territory. It is stated that the electors are grouped in two colleges, one comprising citizens of French status and the other citizens who have kept their personal status and that universal suffrage applies only to the first group. As regards the second group, which contains various categories, for example the advanced notables, members and former members of local assemblies and those who can show that they read French or Arabic -- there are other categories, but I cite those as illustrative -- it is stated that the organization of civil status -- that is the best translation I can think of -- makes the system still necessary and that a broad interpretation of the categories defined in the electoral laws permit the insertion of a greater and greater number of candidates on the list, thus tending towards universal suffrage.

My first question on this point is the following: What would be the approximate of electors in the first college?

Mr. WATIER (Special Representative)(interpretation from French): If I understood the representative of New Zealand correctly, he wishes to know mainly the number of members of the first college; that is, French citizens, is that correct?

Mr. DAVIN (New Zealand): Yes, that is the proposed question.

Mr. WATIER (Special Representative)(interpretation from French): The first college, in February 1951, had 5,970 members.

Mr. DAVIN (New Zealand): As regards the second college, it seems from the figures quoted on page 189 of the 1950 report, that the second college had 70,881 members. According to a Secretariat report on the Cameroons which I have seen, I gather that there are about 200,000 altogether who might be entitled to adult suffrage, and I would therefore guess that the present membership of the second college is about 35 per cent of the total African population which would otherwise be entitled to vote. Would the Special Representative perhaps confirm that the figure is about 35 per cent.

Mr. WATIER (Special Representative) (interpretation from French): Two years ago I had the occasion to point out that the fourteen possible sets of qualifications for electors of the decree of 1946 was supposed to allow 150,000 Cameroonians^{to} have the right eventually to participate in the elections. The rather rapid growth in the number of electors, as shown in the table referred to by the representative of New Zealand, shows that the Cameroonians have progressively displayed interest in electoral matters and have increased the number of registrations on the electoral rolls. We note in particular that from one year to the other the figure has gone up from 48,000 to 70,000 in 1949. In 1950 -- that is the time when the report was written -- the figures were not yet known, but now we know that the number of registrants has gone up to 116,000, which is a substantial proportion of the whole potential electorate.

That figure was considerably modified subsequently by the amendment of the electoral law on the occasion of recent legislative elections which took place in France. The electoral law was modified and the categories of potentially qualified persons, although of course universal suffrage was not applied in total to the Territory, was increased. There are new categories, for instance, that were admitted to the exercise of franchise. All agriculturists can now be electors and the mothers of two children or more can be electors. In addition to those new categories of qualified electors, a new rectified electoral list was drawn up. When the legislative elections took place last month, it was possible to register 502,778 electors. This is more than 50 per cent of the number of electors which would result from universal suffrage.

When the French Government declared that the stages that it had gone through in establishing its original electoral list was leading towards universal suffrage, this was proved by experience because now we are approaching that final consummation towards universal suffrage. Out of 502,778 electors registered on the rolls, only 271,000 actually cast their ballots in the last elections, which proves that the reform, if not premature, may at least be said to have gone beyond the political culture of the Cameroonians. Obviously, the stages which have to be passed to universal suffrage have to be passed gradually and progressively.

Mr. DAVIN (New Zealand): I should like to thank the Special Representative for that explanation. It is clear that the numbers are being steadily increased. Perhaps the Special Representative, in order to clarify my mind and perhaps the minds of some of the other members of the Council, could tell us about the difficulties that prevent the grant of universal suffrage to all adult members of the African community ^{that} / might be entitled to vote and perhaps over how long a period of time those difficulties could be overcome. I should also like to ask a third question. When eventually the stage of universal suffrage is reached, would there be any necessity to have the two separate colleges, the French college and the Cameroon college.

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Mr. WATIER (Special Representative) (interpretation from French): The main difficulty encountered by the Administering Authority in setting up universal suffrage has been a material difficulty. Civil status registration is not yet obligatory throughout the Territory and it is not always easy to identify all Cameroonian citizens. This difficulty has disappeared in the greater part as a result of more careful censuses. Moreover, a number of regions have obligatory civil status registration, and the Cameroonians are more easily and more accurately identifiable.

There is another difficulty, a psychological one. A considerable fraction of the Cameroonians has not yet acquired the necessary political education to realize the appropriateness and interest of consultation of electoral bodies. One has to proceed gradually and start from the lowest stage -- that is, the stage of the village. One must persuade the Cameroonians that the ballot is their means of expressing their will in order to elect representatives who will give their opinions and who will represent their interests. This has to be done in particular through education and the schools.

Our educational programmes include courses in civics and citizenship. Moreover, there has to be close contact between the elected representatives and their constituents. Such contact will become more generalized when there are more elected persons. There are already 40 elected representative members of the Assembly over and above the representatives of the Cameroons in the French Assemblies. This already represents contact at the regional level, so that the political education of the Cameroonians is being carried out gradually and progressively. We anticipate soon the establishment of universal suffrage in the Cameroons.

As regards the elimination of the second college, or rather the combination of the two electoral colleges, this is a question of governmental administration on which I cannot pronounce myself. Perhaps the representative of France may wish to give the Council an idea on this point.

Mr. DAVIN (New Zealand): I should now like to pass on to my second question. It appears that the deputies from the French Cameroons to the French National Assembly are elected by the electoral colleges by the system of a single vote for one candidate, scrutin nominal a un tour. I wonder if the

Special Representative could give us an indication of the method by which the names of the candidates for election in an electoral district are determined -- that is, election to the National Assembly in France.

Mr. WATIER (Special Representative) (interpretation from French): The candidates in the elections are distributed by electoral districts. The first electoral college constitutes a single district for the whole of the Territory. As regards the three representatives of the second college, they are elected in three geographic districts, the first comprising the northern regions, the second comprising the central and eastern regions and the third the southern and western regions. The rules governing candidacies and the electoral procedures are the ones that are set up by French electoral law. The Cameroons do not constitute an exception and ^{they} enjoy no particular privilege. The ballot, for instance, has to be secret. There have to be isolated booths and all regulations regarding the ballots which are set forth for French electoral laws apply. There is just one exception which is also provided by electoral law, and that is an exception which authorizes the printing on the ballot of a symbol so as to permit even illiterates to recognize the candidate of their choice from his symbol. This is an innovation in electoral matters which French law used to forbid because it forbade any such marks on ballots. However, it is allowed in the Cameroons.

Mr. DAVIN (New Zealand): I thank the Special Representative.

With regard to the members elected to the French National Assembly, I gather from the documents that three are chosen by the Cameroons and that two of them are Africans. The Special Representative will perhaps correct me if I am wrong on that, but the point I wanted to know was whether each college votes for three candidates or does the second college vote for only the two African members and the first college vote for only the other non-Africans. If I am correct in my assumption, there is one non-African member and two Africans. Will the first college vote for all three and the second college for all three or does the first college vote only for the non-African member and the second college for the two non-Africans?

Mr. WATIER (Special Representative)(interpretation from French):

First of all, I should like to make a clarification. The report speaks of two representatives for the second college and one for the first college. But the electoral law which modified the representation of the Cameroons had a third representative to be elected by the second college, so that the Cameroonian indigenous inhabitants are represented by three deputies in the Chamber while the first college has kept only one. That is why I spoke of three and one.

I have just said that the voting was by electoral districts. Within each district, the various categories of electors cast their ballots. The first college is one district for the whole of the Territory; that is, all Frenchmen in the Territory vote for one of the candidates from the first college. That has nothing to do with the representatives of the second college.

As regards the candidates for the second college, they stand for office in one of the three geographic electoral districts. In each district, there are a number of candidates and the second college votes for them. The first college has absolutely nothing to do with these elections which are exclusively reserved to the indigenous inhabitants.

Incidentally, I might point out that the candidates in these districts must not necessarily be indigenous inhabitants. They may be French citizens. The course of events has shown that out of the three deputies elected by the second college, two were non-Cameroonians: one was Dr. Aujoulat, a doctor of medicine, a European; the other one was Mr. Ninine, an administrator of the French Overseas Service. The third one was Prince Donala Bele, who is a Cameroonian.

Are these explanations satisfactory? Does that cover the point?

Mr. DAVIN (New Zealand): I find that explanation very satisfactory. I might have to study it in detail a little later on when I see the verbatim record, but it seems to be quite an adequate explanation.

My next question relates to the Representative Assembly which, as the Council well knows, is the highest political institution situated in the Cameroons. I had a point here but I think it will be sufficiently clear.

The membership of this body is elected by the same two colleges of electors referred to previously. In all, some forty members are chosen -- sixteen belonging to the college of French members and twenty-four to the college of Cameroonian members. I am assuming that each college would vote only for its own candidates and not for any of the other candidates.

The system of election is described in French. In English I would say it is a double vote on a majority list. It reads, "scrutin de liste majoritaire a deux tours". I wonder if the Special Representative would mind explaining how that system operates.

Perhaps I could go on to ask one or two further questions and the Special Representative could reply to all. I noticed in the report that it is the Representative Assembly which elects councillors of the Republic. This is also by the scrutin de liste majoritaire a deux tours. It appears from the Trusteeship Council report to the fifth session of the General Assembly that three councillors are elected. Of these, two are Africans.

First of all, would each member of the Representative Assembly vote for all three councillors? Secondly, what is the reason for the difference between the method of electing deputies to the National Assembly -- that is, by the method of a single vote -- and that of electing councillors of the Republic, which is by scrutin de liste majoritaire a deux tours? Perhaps there is something in the French Constitution for the metropolitan territory which makes that necessary. If I could have some clarification on that point, I would be very grateful.

Mr. WATIER (Special Representative) (interpretation from French): To begin, I shall answer the first question of the representative of New Zealand by defining exactly the meaning of majority list balloting in two phases. Majority balloting means that the candidate or list of candidates that has obtained the absolute majority of votes is elected, the whole list. Balloting in two phases means that an absolute majority may not be obtained by any of the candidates on the first ballot. Then there is a second phase of balloting and the candidate or list of candidates that obtains the relative majority, the plurality, is then considered elected. It is called list balloting because a certain number of electoral districts elected a number of representatives to the Representative Assembly according to the size of the region or the number of inhabitants thereof. The number of representatives in the Assembly is one or more according to the number of people in the region. - If there is more than one, then there is a list and the electors vote on the list. This is what we call majority list balloting in two phases.

The Councillors of the Republic are elected by senatorial electors; that is, the representatives of the first college in the Representative Assembly vote for the councillor of the first college and the twenty-four representatives of the second college vote for the two councillors.

That is why here again there is a list balloting for the two councillors of the second college because, with regard to the first college, the representation is single, as only one councillor is elected. There is no question of a list there. There is a list in the second college since there are two councillors.

The legislative elections of 1951 had only one phase, while those of 1946 had two phases. The appropriate provisions are determined by the French Legislative Assembly. Of course, we have no way of intervening to modify these provisions. It is the electoral law voted by the French parliament which determines the manner of voting. The elections were in two phases in 1946 and one phase in 1951, the elections of last month.

Mr. DAVIN (New Zealand): I should like to thank the Special Representative for the very full explanation. I hope that I have not wearied the Council with these details but it is rather interesting to find out how these systems work. Of course, I was not criticizing the arrangements in any way; I was merely seeking information.

It appears from the text of article 33 with respect to the functions of the Representative Assembly and other articles in the decree of 25 October 1946 that the functions of the Representative Assembly are, broadly speaking, deliberative with respect to financial and administrative matters only. I notice a provision that it must be consulted in certain cases and that its deliberations are final, for example, in the case of taxes. Further, that its deliberations can only be executed if their annulment has not been asked for. I also notice that the decisions on the budget are required to be made executory by a decree of the High Commissioner.

This also, in the view of my delegation, does not add up to a great many powers of legislation. It is certainly evidence of some powers. For example, there is no right to initiate legislation, which is the prerogative of the French National Assembly.

My delegation was wondering whether any reforms are in contemplation that would consider giving to the Representative Assembly final powers of legislation on some subjects. It is clear that, as time goes on, the people of the Territory will have to be entrusted with some responsibility for self-government in certain directions at least if they are eventually to fit

themselves for the attainment of the final goal of self-government. The Council has already made recommendations to this effect at its fourth and sixth sessions. I notice in page 253 of the 1950 report that the mandate for the first Assembly comes to an end at the close of 1951 and that the French Government is proposing, in the light of experience and taking account of the degree of evolution in the Territory and the recommendations of the Council, to modify the statute of the Assembly on the occasion of its renewal. It is stated in the report that the French Government has presented to parliament a draft law in this sense:

Perhaps the Special Representative could give us an indication of the modifications contained in that draft law and the present stage reached in the French Parliament with regard to the proposal.

Mr. WATIER (Special Representative)(interpretation from French): The question of legislative competence of the Representative Assembly has already been brought up in this Council, and we have taken the opportunity to stress the point that custom and law in France require that the setting out of basic rules should be a legislative matter, which is, therefore, in the hands of the French Parliament.

As regards the local application of the broad principles set by law, that is within the purview of the Representative Assembly, so that, if, legislatively speaking, the Representative Assembly has no powers. its power as regards the setting out of rules and the implementation of such rules is extensive, and this power may be said to be legislative in the sense in which legislation affects the administration of the Territory. The Representative Assembly's power in this field goes much further than a perusal of the articles of the decree setting forth the powers might lead one to believe. In practice, the Government does nothing, undertakes nothing, sets up no service or office, takes no important initiative within the Territory without having requested either a discussion or actual advice from the Representative Assembly. Even in serious cases, once the Representative Assembly have given negative advice, the French Governor has not disregarded such decisions and he has refrained from implementing certain projects which were not countenanced by the Representative Assembly. These projects, in some cases, might have accrued to the benefit of the Territory and improved the standard of living. The Representative Assembly is a faithful picture of the mentality of the Cameroonian, and therefore it represents a certain amount of resistance to any over-precipitant democratization and advancement in the Territory. This body, which was established by our democratic mentality, sometimes turns out to be a break applied to any too swift development of the Territory. An example was the negative advice handed down by the Representative Assembly when we were dealing with forestry matters. The Government wished to classify certain forest areas in order to prevent deforestation. That provision was discountenanced by the Representative Assembly. The Representative Assembly also displayed certain reticence in the

establishment of the Yaounde and Douala communes. This provision was opposed by certain traditional groups, particularly the Douala racial chiefs, who feared that part of their tradition would disappear in a purely democratic administration. The Representative Assembly chose to endorse the fears of the Douala chiefs and vetoed the reform proposed by the French Government.

I have outlined these cases in order to show how that Representative Assembly has sometimes resisted deliberately the initiative of the Administering Authority. We have often had difficulty in persuading the members of the Representative Assembly that it was advisable to accept certain reforms to which they originally displayed a not inconsiderable amount of opposition.

The draft law submitted to Parliament, which increased the powers of the Representative Assembly to some extent, was designed in particular to place fully in the hands of the Representative Assembly the power to grant concessions and any alienation of land that might be made in the Territory, and this is indeed a broad privilege. Unfortunately, that bill did not come before the last French Assembly, due to lack of time. It is now pending before the newly elected French Legislature.

As regards the question whether, at the end of the term of the present Representative Assembly, there will be an extension of its powers, that question has already been raised in the proper quarters in the French Government, and we anticipate a serious revision of the powers of the Representative Assembly towards liberalization. That, again, is a Government question, and I hope that the representative of France will be the one to answer fully the question which the representative of New Zealand has asked, since that matter comes within his province.

Mr. PIGNON (France) (Interpretation from French): If the representative of New Zealand has concluded his questions on this particular chapter, I shall request permission to speak. If he has not concluded, however, I shall wait.

Mr. DAVIN (New Zealand): I have two more questions on this section. I notice from page 49 of the 1950 report that a decree has been drafted which provides for the establishment of Regional Councils, whose functions will be more extensive than those of the Councils of Notables, and which will replace the Councils of Notables. The report shows that this ^{draft} decree was submitted to the first normal Representative Assembly in March 1950 and sent back for further

study; that it was again sent to the Representative Assembly and the latter had undertaken to give a definite opinion in the first normal session of 1951. I wonder whether the Special Representative could tell me whether the draft decree has yet been approved by the Representative Assembly and brought into effect, and whether he could give an outline of the selecting of members of the Regional Councils, together with a description, perhaps, of the role of the traditional chiefs in these Councils.

Mr. WATIER (Special Representative)(Interpretation from French): The question asked by the representative of New Zealand affords another illustration of what I was saying a while ago. I mentioned the resistance of the Representative Assembly to innovations proposed by the French Government. In effect, the majority of the African members of the Representative Assembly have feared lest the Councils of Notables, as they are extended and become the Regional Councils, may exercise too close a check on the work of the members of the Representative Assembly. They took a rather dim view of being subjected to the questioning of members of a Provincial Assembly who would ask them to account for the manner in which they fulfilled their mandate. That was the main reason, I think, why the Representative Assembly of the Cameroons in 1950 rejected the draft ordinance submitted to it to that effect. It did not reject it; it simply delayed consideration of the question. The session of 1951 was supposed to resume consideration of the matter, but I am afraid that I do not know at the moment whether the Representative Assembly has pronounced itself on the matter. If my memory is correct, the agenda of the session of April-May 1951 was overloaded, and I am not in a position to tell whether the draft relating to the reform of the Councils of Notables came up for consideration at that session.

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Mr. DAVIN (New Zealand): My final question on political advancement is this:

I notice on page 50 of the 1950 report that career magistrates have been arriving in the Territory to replace the judges appointed as a transitional measure from among various officials. This seems to my delegation evidence of considerable progress towards the ideal of separating the judicial from the executive function.

I wonder whether the Special Representative could give us an account of the present situation as regards this reform. Are there many posts at present held by officials which still remain to be filled by career magistrates?

I have a second point with regard to the indigenous tribunals. These appear to have increased in number and to be working satisfactorily. I wonder whether we could have a description of the method of selecting and appointing African judges.

Mr. WATIER (Special Representative) (interpretation from French): It is accurate to say that the number of career magistrates has substantially increased during the last two years -- and, as a matter of fact, even since the beginning of this year six new career magistrates have arrived in the Territory. The number of officials, therefore, who have been combining administrative functions with magisterial functions is being reduced. I believe that there is now only one official exercising both administrative and judicial functions.

As regards the customary tribunals, their number is growing. Civil justice, which was formerly administered by tribunals of first and second degree, presided over by a European official assisted by two indigenous magistrates, is now being administered by the customary tribunals. These tribunals are composed exclusively of indigenous magistrates, who are selected by the High Commissioner from a list proposed by the chiefs of regions. The list contains names of chiefs, notables and elders of the tribes noted for their knowledge of custom, their high morals and their integrity.

When too many litigants appeal against the decisions of the customary tribunals, the inference is rather clear: the judge is not satisfactory and is not judging in accordance with custom. In that event, it is incumbent upon the president of the tribunal of second degree, which is the appeals court for the customary courts, to point that matter out to the Procureur General, who is the head of the appropriate service and who investigates the question whether the

membership of the customary tribunal should not be changed and whether new judges should not be named.

Mr. PIGNON (France) (interpretation from French): I should like to make some explanations in connexion with the replies to the questions put by the representative of New Zealand which have been given by the Special Representative.

As I remember it, the first question concerned the double college. The Special Representative referred this question to me, stating that it was a matter for the French Government to decide. I should like slightly to correct what the Special Representative said. It is not actually a question for the Government: it is a question for the Parliament. In this domain, the French Government has a well established tradition, which is, so far as possible, to leave the settling of electoral questions to the initiative of Parliament.

The law which actually governs elections in the overseas Territories is the law of 23 May 1951. A first law had eliminated the double college in all the Territories, with the sole exception of Madagascar. There was a constitutional obligation to have the text voted by the National Assembly adopted by the Senate. That was not done, and we were therefore left with the law of 23 May 1951, to which I have just referred, which maintained the double college in the Territories where it had existed since 1946. This is therefore ^{essentially} a political matter. It is more a parliamentary matter than a governmental one.

I would point out, in passing, however, that the law of 1951 has considerably increased the representation of the double college. This was pointed out ^{specifically} in connexion with the Cameroons, but it was generally applied. The law, as I have said, increased the number of actual indigenous representatives in the French Parliament.

I should also like to say a word about the powers of the assemblies. There is always a delicate problem of terminology as regards the legislative or parliamentary power. We must decide whether, in defining these words, we are using a formal criterion or a substantive criterion. The formal criterion is quite simple: In French law, anything which comes from Parliament is a law, and anything which comes from the executive power is a decree or a regulation. Of course, that is a very simple criterion. If, however, one takes the substantive criterion -- which is more difficult to define but which is richer in meaning -- very important consequences may result as regards the representative assemblies.

In my opinion, the representative assemblies are invested with real legislative power within the limits of the laws and regulations coming from the central power. If it is a question of a matter which has not been the subject of a law or a decree coming from the central power, it is quite obvious that the assembly has a wide scope in which to exercise real legislative power.

The last question which the Special Representative referred to me concerned the powers of the assemblies. He said practically everything which could be said on this subject by indicating that the formal intention of the French Government was considerably to extend the powers of the assemblies. This is of direct concern to the indigenous inhabitants. It happens that circumstances which affect the whole world have resulted in the failure of the session of parliament which terminated last month to carry out this intention. I can, however, give the Council the assurance that it is certainly the intention of the French Government to follow up this matter, as it is its intention generally to follow up all questions concerning the representative assemblies.

Mr. DUSSAUT (Argentina) (interpretation from French): I have listened with great interest to the explanations given by the Special Representative, particularly as they concern the composition of the electoral college and the feeling that ^{its} powers should be extended whenever the Administration deems it appropriate. For example, we were gratified to hear that the membership of the college has increased from 70,000 to 116,000.

Is registration in the electoral rolls carried out directly by the Administration, or is it directed by the indigenous inhabitants -- the Fons or political parties? In general, I should like to know how these electoral rolls are set up. Is there any sort of verification of the country's population in connexion with registration?

Mr. WATIER (Special Representative) (interpretation from French):

The compilation of electoral rolls is regulated by the French electoral law which lays down the conditions which must be fulfilled by a citizen before he can be registered and which also specifies the methods by which registration is carried out and controlled. The establishment of the lists in the first place is carried out by the Administration; in France it is the communal administration, in the Cameroons it is the Administration of the Territory. If electors consider that they are qualified but are not included in the lists, they are able to appeal to the court and it is the Tribunal de Paix which decides on the validity of a registration or on the acceptability of requests for registration received from persons whose names have been omitted. There is always therefore a recourse open to the citizens; they themselves may examine the electoral lists, which are posted in a public place and are open to inspection by everybody and everyone who fulfils the necessary conditions is sure of an opportunity to register.

Mr. DUSSAUT (Argentina) (interpretation from French): I should also like to know what further procedure will be followed in the event that the number of members of the electoral colleges increases considerably. In this connexion I should like to point out that when there were 12,000 members of the electoral college there were 40 members of the Representative Assembly. Now that there are 116,000 members of the college, there are still 40 members of the Assembly. Will the number of representatives in the Assembly always remain the same, or will it increase in proportion to the number of members in the college of electors?

Mr. WATIER (Special Representative) (interpretation from French):

The number of representatives in the metropolitan country has already increased, the number of electoral representatives of the Cameroons being now four instead of three -- that is, three representatives from the second college instead of two. As to the members of the Representative Assembly, they are elected on the basis of the population of the area they represent, and 40 representatives for 3,000,000 inhabitants is, after all, quite a sufficient number to constitute a small local parliament. I do not think that any increase in the number of those

representatives is contemplated in the immediate future. However, it is possible that next year, when the Government will undertake to reconsider the organization and functioning of the Representative Assembly, it may be able slightly to increase the number of representatives of the second college.

Mr. SAYRE (United States of America): On page 50 of the 1950 report a description is given of progress in village administration reforms which are being undertaken in the French Cameroons, and an interesting explanation is given to the effect that these reforms were extended in 1950 to three new sub-divisions in the N'Tem region. The Administering Authority calls attention to the very natural difficulty of extending this reform to other areas where the educational level is low. That is a problem which many of us face in the administration of Trust Territories and I should be very interested if the Special Representative could give us details of some of the difficulties and the methods which are being adopted to overcome them.

Mr. WATIER (Special Representative) (interpretation from French):

The establishment of village bureaux, to which reference is made by the representative of the United States, is based on the existence of a sufficiently widespread knowledge of French to make useful and accessible to the majority of the persons concerned the meeting-hall and library which form part of the bureaux. This condition, of a sufficiently high level of general education, is achieved in a certain number of sub-divisions, especially in the area of N'Tem, where we can say that there are hardly any illiterates, where all children go to school and a large majority of adults are able to read and write. In such conditions it was possible to achieve this extremely interesting innovation of village bureaux, which are both cultural and administrative centres and which have enabled us to regroup in a new setting the indigenous inhabitants whose isolation in the forests had separated them from their original tribal roots. We hope to be able progressively to extend these village bureaux to other regions, as and when our educational courses for adults, among other things, have enabled us to achieve the required progress. I hope that as early as next year we may be able to contemplate the extension of this experiment to part of the Edea region and part of the Yaounde area.

Mr. SAYRE (United States of America): Do I understand that this extension of these administrative reforms is contemplated within, let us say, the coming year? Is it an immediate step which is being contemplated, or is it something which is merely envisaged within the course of the next several years? I am wondering how immediate are the steps which are contemplated.

Mr. WATIER (Special Representative) (interpretation from French): I understand the interest which the representative of the United States shows in obtaining more precise information on the extension of village bureaux, but I do not think that I should commit the Cameroons Government by stating here that by a certain time we shall create so many new village bureaux or that we shall extend them to such and such regions. I simply know that it is the intention of those who direct the political affairs of the Cameroons to extend the experiment. We are still in the experimental stage, after all. The experiment has succeeded in the Bulu area and to extend it to other places of somewhat different characteristics we may have to change the organization of the village bureaux. All this is a pragmatic task, it is a task of experimentation and experience which is carried out in the field on the spot; we are attempting as far as possible to bring the administration down to the lowest possible levels and as close as possible to the Territory itself.

Mr. SAYRE (United States of America): I am sure that all of us will be interested in a further detailing, perhaps in next year's report, of the experience which the Administering Authority is having. It is a problem similar to that which many of us face, and for that reason the experience of the Administering Authority in the Cameroons under French Administration would be of very great interest to others.

My second question relates to a statement on page 46 of the 1950 report, where, in the right-hand column, there appears an interesting account of the various political parties in the French Cameroons. I notice that, in the case of the Union des Populations du Cameroun, it is mentioned that its membership at the maximum is about five or six thousand. No figures are given, however, as to the estimated membership of the other parties. I wonder whether the Special Representative would be able to give us an approximate idea of the number of members in these other parties. I quite realize that the numbers are increasing with each year and that they keep fluctuating rapidly. The Special Representative may not have at his fingertips such information as that in which I have expressed my interest. If he does have the information, however, I should be interested to know the approximate size of these other parties mentioned on page 46.

Mr. WATIER (Special Representative) (interpretation from French): Actually it is somewhat difficult to determine the membership of a given party in the Cameroons. If we take the figure which practically would be the only valid one -- that is, the figure of subscribers to the party -- we would have a very wrong idea of the actual importance of the party. In point of fact, the Cameroonians very often express their sympathy for a party with a great deal of ardor and devotion, but this ardor and this devotion very seldom go as far as paying any form of regular subscription. The Cameroonian has not yet understood the interest that there is in ensuring the livelihood of a party on the material and physical plane. Therefore, the information which we have on subscribers would translate only imperfectly the relative importance of each party.

For the Union des Populations du Cameroun, we have been able to establish an approximate figure because various studies have enabled us to know more or less who the various members are, since a great number of them are registered

at the same time in trade unions of the Confederation Generale du Travail. That enables us to find the number of persons registered in the Union des Populations du Cameroun.

As to the other parties, I think I may say that it is the Evolution Sociale Camerounaise which is the most numerous. I should not like to give any specific figure, which might prove to be incorrect -- but this party has a greater development than the Renaissance Camerounaise. At the last elections, it happened that the candidates who presented themselves under the banner of the Evolution Sociale Camerounaise obtained a considerable number of votes, and it is significant to note that the candidate of the Union des Populations du Cameroun who presented himself in the first district received approximately six thousand votes, which corresponds quite closely to the figure indicated in the report. I am afraid I cannot give much more information on this point.

Mr. SAYRE (United States of America): I should now like to turn to page 49 of the 1950 report, where mention is made, in the middle of the left-hand column, of the Lamine-Gueye law, enacted on 30 June 1950 in Paris, providing in principle that the salaries of colonial officers shall not be based on differences in race or personal status or origin or place of recruitment. I should be interested in hearing something of the actual operation and execution of this law. I wonder, for instance, whether French civil servants do receive overseas allowances. I should like to know how the law works out in practical operation.

Mr. WATIER (Special Representative) (interpretation from French): The Lamine-Gueye law, when it established the fact that differences in the pay of officials could in no case be based on differences of race or personal status or origin, created a great number of difficulties as regards implementation. Actually, so far, officials of European origin serving in the overseas territories have received an indemnity, an expatriation allowance, which was determined according to the basic salary and which varied according to the distance of the territory from France or according to the kind of climate in which the officials had to serve. With the Lamine-Gueye law, this difference should in principle disappear -- or else similar indemnities should be given to officials of the same rank born in African territories.

Mr. SAYRE (United States of America): My last question is one which reverts to the question which was asked by the representative of New Zealand, and interestingly answered by both the Special Representative and the representative of France, in regard to the proposed extension of the powers of the Representative Assembly. I was particularly interested in the explanation given by the representative of France as to the powers reserved to the French Legislative Assembly, the inability of other Assemblies to pass laws in the technical sense of the word, the powers of local Legislative Assemblies to pass legislation which nevertheless does have local effect. In view of his explanation, I did not feel quite clear as to exactly how the powers of this Representative Assembly were expected to be increased. Now, we have spoken of the projet de loi, which has not yet been passed, but which does, as I understand it, propose to extend the powers. I am not clear along what lines those powers are expected to be extended, or just what the provisions will be or how the matter can be worked out. I would appreciate further clarification.

Mr. WATIER (Special Representative) (interpretation from French):

It is rather difficult to specify what will be the reforms ensured by a law which has not yet been discussed by Parliament. The Bill submitted by the Government contemplates an extension to which I referred a short while ago and which is specially important in the field of the granting of concessions and, in a general manner, of any alienation of territory. But this law may be very considerably modified by Parliament, and that is why I cannot here and now give any specific reply to the representative of the United States.

Mr. PIGNON (France) (interpretation from French): May I add a few

words to what has been said by the Special Representative? There are three conceivable methods of increasing the powers of the Local Assembly. The first is to extend the list of matters in regard to which it has competence. The second, in the budgetary field, consists of diminishing compulsory expenditures, thereby increasing the powers of the Assembly. The third method is to diminish the number of cases in which the Administration -- or, if the more juridical term is preferred, the executive power -- can ask for an annulment of a decision of the Assembly. The method chosen by the French Government in the Bill to which reference has been made was that of increasing the list of matters in which the Assembly had full deliberative powers. As the Special Representative has said, however, it is not certain that Parliament, which has complete freedom in the matter, may not choose another method or even vote for the three methods together. In parliamentary debate no clear line is indicated until the discussion is completed. All I am able to say is that the French Government intends to increase these powers and that its method so far has been to add new matters in which the Assembly has full authority.

Mr. SUPHAMONGKHON (Thailand): I have very few questions to ask.

I am interested to note that there is a system of nominating tribal chiefs in accordance with local customs, but I understand also that such nominations have to be approved by the Administering Authority. My first question, therefore, is this. Does not the subjection of nominations of tribal chiefs to approval by the Administering Authority make of such tribal chiefs mere agents of the Administration?

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Mr. WATIER (Special Representative) (interpretation from French): The nomination of chiefs is validated by a decree of the head of the territory, but the actual investiture takes place as the result of a designation by the Council of Elders or, if the dynastic law is different, in accordance with the traditional dynastic provisions. The government simply confirms a fact which, in practice, is the result of traditional custom. The only case in which a nomination might be suspended would be one where the chief-designate, nominated in accordance with custom and tradition, was unworthy of the office because of scandalous conduct, unsatisfactory moral qualifications or even simply physical insufficiency. In such a case the head of the territory would request the investing body -- that is to say, the Council of Elders, the Assembly of Heads of Families or whichever body designated the chief -- to designate another person to be chief.

Mr. SUPHAMONGKHON (Thailand): I understand that in certain areas the Administering Authority has seen fit to establish a kind of municipal commission. I have learned from the report that the members of those commissions are appointed by the Administration and not elected. I should like to ask whether there is any special reason that elections should not take place in this connexion.

Mr. WATIER (Special Representative) (interpretation from French): The system of the designation of municipal commissions is semi-elective. A certain number of the members of these bodies are elected or designated by corporations, economic groups, and so on. Others are elected literally -- that is to say, by the members of the municipality. On the other hand, the head of the municipality is always a mayor-administrator -- an official designated by the government. It is especially in this -- the designation of the head of the municipality -- that we see the difference between municipalities with full exercise of powers and the system of joint communes which we also find in the Cameroons.

Mr. SUPHAMONGKHON (Thailand): I am glad that the Special Representative has explained this matter because I read in document T/L.182 that the mayor-administrator was "assisted by a Municipal Commission of six members (four Europeans and two Africans) appointed by the Haut Commissaire." That is why

I was under the impression that the members of the Municipal Commission were designated by the Administering Authority and not elected. If they are in fact elected, however, I am satisfied with the explanation.

My next question refers to page 53 of the report for 1950 which contains a table giving the numbers of staff. I should like the Special Representative to give some clarification of these figures. For instance, I note that in the case of the general administration the number of European staff members increased from 242 in 1949 to 340 in 1950, whereas the number of African staff members remained unchanged. What is the reason for this increase of nearly 100 European staff members and no increase at all in the number of Africans? Why was there not a similar increase in the number of African staff members?

Mr. WATIER (Special Representative) (interpretation from French):

The increase in the European staff arises essentially from the fact that the general economic development of the Territory and the hurried construction which France is undertaking of a considerable number of public works requires the presence of cadres of officials, technicians and engineers who cannot be furnished by the Africans and must come from France. That is why the number of European staff members is constantly increasing.

As to the number of Africans, we must take into account the fact that the 627 that are mentioned here are officials who belong to the higher cadres. Besides these officials, there is an important number of daily officials and administration agents who are not included in the general cadre and /^{whose} number is variable according to the requirements of the services.

Mr. SCHEYVEN (Belgium) (interpretation from French): I noted that the deliberations of the Assembly could be annulled at the request of the High Commissioner. I would be gratified/^{to know} who has the power to annul these deliberations.

Mr. WATIER (Special Representative) (interpretation from French): The deliberations may be annulled in specific conditions, when, among other things, they deal with a matter which is not within the purview or scope of the Assembly's mandate and which is not included in the enumerations of subjects upon which the Assembly is qualified to deliberate. The annulment, at the request of the High Commissioner, is made by a decree passed as a regulation of public administration, ^{French} that is, it is the Council of State which is consulted and the /Minister for Overseas passes a decree for annulment.

Mr. SCHEYVEN (Belgium) (interpretation from French): I also noted that ^{of} the duration /^{of} bi-annual sessions was one month at the maximum. What is the average duration of such sessions?

Mr. WATIER (Special Representative): So far they have lasted about one month. The agenda of such sessions are more and more overloaded, and they hardly manage, within the duration provided by law, to conclude the work of the regular agenda for the Assembly. In this manner, the Assembly has always been in session ~~for~~ about a month, with one or two days difference.

Mr. SCHEYVEN (Belgium) (interpretation from French): I see that the new administrative centres have been entrusted to African officials. Are these officials Bantus?

Mr. WATIER (Special Representative) (interpretation from French):

I believe that in the case of the African officials exercising functions of command, there are so far only Bantus, for the obvious/^{reason} that the non-Bantu indigenous inhabitants inhabit the North of the Territory where the development of education is not as marked as in the South. But it is simply an assumption. I would have to actually know the names of the officials concerned in order to be able to inform the representative of Belgium more correctly.

Mr. SCHEYVEN (Belgium) (Interpretation from French): If we compare the text of pages 26, 45 and 50, we would find that it is said on page 26 that the authority of the chiefs is very much diminished in the South of the Cameroons; on page 45, it is stated that the almost entirely Christianized population is fairly open to the civilizing influences of missions and of the French Administration. Finally, on page 50, it is stated that the Christianization of Bulus and the evolution of/^{their} customs favour the mark of individualism among them and encourages them to direct themselves to some organized form of/^{municipal} administration.

Is it possible to establish a relationship between the Christianization of these areas and this marked propensity of the populations inhabiting these regions toward democratization of their institutions?

think Mr. WATIER (Special Representative) (interpretation from French): I do not/that it is too bold to advance a hypothesis of this nature. On the contrary, I think that if, in the South, the authority of the chiefs is being diminished and frittered away, and if individualism of the Bulus is being asserted more and more, and if the old forms are disappearing to be replaced by a more modern sense of development among individuals, the/^{Missions and the} Christianization of certain areas of the Territory are certainly responsible, to a large extent, for such a degree of evolution. The Territory may have suffered from this at the time when such a lack of equilibrium occurred between the former and the latter states of mind; but, as we have said, we are now seeking an administrative organization which will substitute a new form of authority, on the basis of democratic communes, for the former authority which rested on consanguinity and tribal links.

Mr. SCHEYVEN (Belgium) (interpretation from French): I wish to thank the Special Representation for the explanations which he has furnished. I should like to point out that I took a motor trip through the Cameroons about three months ago, and in all the regions that I traversed, I noted an agreeable mode of life, which

was pleasant to see. This atmosphere is not necessarily customary in Africa, and it is certainly a count of praise which should be credited to the French Administration in the Cameroons.

Mr. Shih-shun LIU (China): According to the report of the first Visiting Mission to West Africa, a considerable section of the population and of the African electorate, at the first election to the Representative Assembly of the Cameroons, was not very clear as to its meaning. This was one explanation regarding the small number of names on the registers of voters. We have now learned, with great gratification, that the number of voters has increased very extensively. I take it that this must have been due to the effort on the part of the Administrative Authority or the Administration to explain to the population the meaning of the introduction of the electoral system. I should like to have some details as to the definite steps that have been taken by the Administration in this respect.

Mr. WATIER (Special Representative) (interpretation from French): The measures ^{which} have been taken and which have achieved a generalized spread of electoral customs in the Territory are of various kinds. For instance, there is the matter of general advancement, such as education, particularly adult education, because now, in almost all regions of the Territory there are evening courses which are assiduously frequented by a considerable number of Cameroonian adults. In these courses political training and civic education of the Cameroonians is stressed. In the schools in general there are courses in civics, which the children do not fail to spread at home and thus, indirectly, the Cameroonians' civic education is fostered. There are still more direct methods. Whenever it has been able to do so, the Administration has gathered the village tribe and canton chiefs together and explained the essence of elections to them, and also explained to them the way in which elections were designed to express the will of the Cameroonians and what the procedure was to ensure such representation of the opinions of the Cameroonians. The chiefs conveyed this information to their constituents, and thus the institution of elections -- something entirely novel four years ago, in the Cameroons, has had rather unexpected success.

I might say that this education has been fostered by practice because since 1946 the Cameroonians have on varied occasions proceeded to the polls and to the ballot boxes. This of course helps the political education of the Cameroonians considerably.

Mr. Shih-shun LIU (China): A Visiting Mission received a number of complaints concerning the abusive treatment inflicted upon the Africans by some members of the police force in the Cameroons. The Mission suggested that in this respect the situation might be reviewed by the Administering Authority. Has anything been done in this direction by the Administering Authority?

Mr. WATIER (Special Representative) (Interpretation from French): Upon being apprised of the complaint submitted on this matter and the petition given to the Visiting Mission, the Administering Authority carried out a number of enquiries as to the conduct of the police in general and of the Douala police in particular. The petitioner was requested to make accusations that were specific and to cite precise cases in which police brutality and abuses were alleged to have taken place, instead of making general charges. Whenever such a case came up, an enquiry was carried out and in most cases it was proved that it was not the police that was in the wrong but the complainant, the person who complained of police brutality. I must say that it is difficult in a town like Douala, where almost 120,000 indigenous inhabitants live in a rather restricted area, to ensure the policing and law and order in the locality without sometimes having to push some people around slightly.

Questions of racial rivalries still play a part in the Cameroons as in the remainder of Africa. If the policeman is of a different race from the person he is dealing with, he will not be greatly inclined to treat that person with any particular softness. All those matters are cumulative and police intervention has a tendency sometimes to be rather more energetic than would be warranted by the circumstances. The Administering Authority has recommended to the Police Commissioner, and in particular to the gendarmes who make up the cadres of the Cameroons police, to see to it that the policemen should not engage in unnecessary brutality. Whenever any case is brought to our attention where a policeman may have been charged with brutality, the policeman is tried, punished and even expelled from the police force. I pointed out a similar matter last year during the consideration of the report of the Visiting Mission.

Mr. Shih-shun LIU (China): I have no more questions on this aspect of the report and I thank the Special Representative for his replies to my question.

Mr. SOLDATOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): The reports of the Administering Authority and the statements of the Special Representative today make it clear that no modifications in the procedure for electing representatives to the so-called Representative Assembly of the Cameroons have thus far taken place. To judge from the documents before us, we realize that the French College elects sixteen representatives whereas the College of Africans elects ^{twenty-four} representatives. This sixteen to ^{proportion} twenty-four is maintained although the African population is almost three million persons while there are only 12,000 Europeans, as the report for 1950 indicates on page 271. In this connexion we wonder whether measures have been taken or are contemplated by the Administering Authority in order to put an end to such flagrant racial discrimination as is displayed in the distribution of seats in ratio to the population in the Trust Territory. Are any measures being taken or contemplated to put an end to this discrimination which still obtains?

Mr. WATIER (Special Representative) (interpretation from French): In the first place, I should like to point out to the representative of the Soviet Union the reason which in my opinion justifies the existence of a double College in the Cameroons. On the one hand we have a mass of three million Cameroonians and on the other hand we have a restricted number of Frenchmen -- 12,000 at present. It is stated that there is racial discrimination. The discrimination is not on the racial plane by any means. The 12,000 Frenchmen present in the Cameroons all belong to the administration of the Territory. That means that they have brought to the Cameroons an organization which the country would never have had without them; or else they belong to trades or are planters. They are the most interesting elements in the economic development of the Territory. They may also belong to the technical services, and here again they represent one of the ferments of development; they are among the most interesting in the Territory. That is why it is not right to oppose the limited number of Frenchmen to the greater mass of the Cameroonians. On the other hand, in the Representative Assembly of the Cameroons, there ^{are} twenty-four Africans representing three million ^{people} and sixteen Europeans, so there is always the assurance that the Cameroons mass will have a majority in this Assembly,

and that they will never be downtrodden in any way by the French minority which only has sixteen votes.

As to possible modifications in the composition of the Representative Assembly, it was stated a while ago that its first mandate will expire next year. It is only at that time that the French Government will consider the appropriateness, if any, of modifying either the composition or the number of members of the Representative Assembly. It would be clumsy and unfortunate not to let the first experiment be carried out to the end or to interrupt in the very middle of the legislature the work of the Assembly in order to modify its composition.

Moreover, I wish to point out that, if certain members of the Representative Assembly have shown very rapid progress in their political training and in their habits of considering matters of state with a disinterested and intelligent point of view, there are others who find it very difficult to achieve immediately or rapidly the progress which is essential in order that they may assume responsibility in a more complete legislature.

Therefore it would probably be too precipitous to wish hastily to modify the composition of the Representative Assembly. We should leave it to the passing of time in order to ripen the political training of the people of the Cameroons.

Mr. SOLDATOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (Interpretation from Russian): The explanation given by the Special Representative makes it clear that the privileged representation granted to Europeans in this Representative Assembly, be they Europeans concerned with administration or traders, is essential in order to ensure this position of theirs in the Cameroons. This gives rise to a question. Apparently some sort of legislative measures are necessary in order to perpetuate this privileged situation. French administrators, businessmen and so forth have not by their conduct in the Trust Territory ensured for themselves such influence and standing in the eyes of the indigenous inhabitants of the Trust Territory so as to be able to do without such special measures designed to maintain their privileged status. I fail to see any other reason that would account for the necessity of having such measures. Could the Special Representative explain that matter?

Mr. WATIER (Special Representative) (Interpretation from French): I wonder whether there are not some difficulties of interpretation between what I said and what is heard by the representative of the Soviet Union. I do not believe I stated that the representation of France was to be ensured as a personal privilege. The representation of France and of the French population, as I have already said, is constantly a minority representation. Therefore it could not in any way trample down the indigenous population. On the other hand it is also not to safeguard the interests of Europeans that this representation has been conceived. It is simply that the Cameroonians, in the first Representative Assembly with a democratic character, should not find themselves completely at a loss and in order that they may have as guides, as colleagues and as supporters persons who were already accustomed to the functions of assemblies of this nature.

The representative of the Soviet Union has very kindly concluded from the fact that there were privileged representatives in the Representative Assembly that that was the only means which France had of ensuring the respect of its

officials, planters and colonists in the Cameroons. The reply to such an insinuation is extremely simple. The Cameroons have just voted a month ago. They ^{had} 503,000 votes in order to indicate their opinion. Two hundred seventy-three thousand expressed themselves and they chose as representatives not Cameroonians, not the representative of the UPC who presented himself or any other indigenous inhabitant of the country, but a European doctor and an administrator who has been in the Cameroons for more than fifteen years. The third was an indigenous chief who was well known. This manifestation, therefore, the result of which was the selection of European persons as representatives for the indigenous people themselves does show after all that the respect for the French task in the Cameroons is ensured with most of the Cameroonians.

Mr. SOLDATOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics)(Interpretation from Russian): I did not say anything new as against what the Special Representative has told us. Therefore there can be no question at all of any insinuation. The Special Representative said something, he made a statement. I requested a clarification thereof. What was his statement? It was that the French administrators, traders and others who have invested their efforts, whatever those might be, in the Trust Territory do not want to be lost in the mass of this Representative Assembly. Therefore it was decided, in order to maintain their leading position, to have sixteen of them and twenty-four representatives of the indigenous population. But these sixteen representatives are elected by 12,000 European electors who want to maintain their special position whereas the other twenty-four are elected by a constituency of 3,000,000.

I wanted a clarification of this situation. Why is it necessary by force of law to perpetuate this inequality, this privileged status of the Europeans? Would it not be possible to do without that? I went on to inquire: Is this not necessary because there is no other way to ensure the authority of Frenchmen? You immediately bristle at some insinuation which you say I made. There was no insinuation. I merely requested the Special Representative to clarify his own statement.

Then he went on to speak about the way in which elections to the French Parliament took place a month ago. Unfortunately we are not discussing that period now inasmuch as the Administering Authority has submitted reports through the year 1950. That is why I do not have and the Administering Authority has

not submitted detailed information on these last elections. Therefore I do not suppose it is possible to discuss this subject now.

As regards the statement of the Special Representative that the Cameroonian population has elected as its representatives a physician well known in the Trust Territory and somebody who has worked there for fifteen years, this does not contradict the fact that these persons are good Europeans, ^a good doctor and a good person. Therefore they ^{were} elected. Perhaps this shows that the indigenous inhabitants display less racial discrimination than those who write these laws as regards representation. You see this is a particular case. We are speaking about a policy that is imposed. There is a question of free choice.

I should like to ask the Special Representative whether he has anything to add to what he has told us in connexion with the clarification that I requested in my question. There can be no question of any insinuation at all. Of course, if he has nothing to add, then I shall proceed apace to my next question.

Mr. WATIER (Special Representative)(Interpretation from French): I have nothing to add.

Mr. SOLDATOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics)(Interpretation from Russian): We are all in such excellent agreement. My next question has already been broached by some of my predecessors. On what topics did the Representative Assembly give negative advice?

The Special Representative gave us some examples. He spoke, for instance, of the classification of forest lands. He also spoke about new electoral procedures which are contemplated in the Douala region. Have there been any other occasions when the Representative Assembly has chosen to hand down negative advice on matters that were submitted to it for consideration?

Mr. WATIER (Special Representative) (interpretation from French): A while ago I did refer to the negative attitude of the Representative Assembly in connexion with the question of forest lands. It also adopted this attitude when the question arose of introducing the establishment of communes in Douala and Youande. The same attitude was adopted by the Representative Assembly on the question of reform in the system of Councils of Notables. I have no doubt that other proposals of the Administering Authority have been rejected by the Representative Assembly, but I am not prepared at the moment to elaborate on this matter. I shall be able, however, to supply such information by reference to the register and accounts of the Representative Assembly.

Mr. SOLDATOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): I would indeed be grateful for a more detailed reply to this question when the Special Representative finds it convenient -- perhaps on Monday, 9 July.

I have several more questions on political advancement.

When the Special Representative replied to questions concerning matters rejected by the Representative Assembly, he mentioned that the membership of the African representatives in the Representative Assembly was characterized by the fact that the greater number of such members were notables and that it was they who rejected proposals for the reform of the Councils of Notables and a number of other progressive proposals. Does this mean that the decisive majority of the Representative Assembly may be held to have backward views in that respect and that they -- as notables or spokesmen for notables -- adopt this negative attitude because such proposals might jeopardize their traditional rights, and thus they thwart the adoption of such progressive measures?

Mr. WATIER (Special Representative) (interpretation from French): I shall take advantage of the opportunity offered by the representative of the Soviet Union to clarify what I said a short time ago with regard to the Councils of Notables. If the majority of the members of the Representative Assembly show some hostility towards a revision of the Councils of Notables, it is not so much that, as notables, they might object to a reduction in their powers but rather that their own position as representatives of a region might be influenced by the control exercised over them by a Council of Notables with more extended powers. In any case, they would prefer not to be controlled too strictly in their own regions. It is not because they are notables; it is because they are jealous of their privileges and do not want the African mandate to exercise too close control over them.

In the second place, the representative of the USSR presumes that the African representatives are notables and chiefs. In point of fact, they are whatever the suffrage decides, since they are designated by the suffrage as it now functions in the Territory, and if the Cameroonian electors prefer to be represented by chiefs, we can but accept the decision of the Cameroon's suffrage. A number of the members of the Representative Assembly are chiefs, but certainly they are not all chiefs or notables. They are advanced persons who represent Cameroonian officials, or else they are trades people or people without any special qualifications except what they have acquired through their own personal capacity and talent.

Mr. SOLDATOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): When the electoral procedure was dealt with, as regards the election of the tribal chiefs or elders, the Special Representative answered a question put by one of the members of the Council by stating that the tribal chief is elected by the Council of Elders, or that such a chief may be selected on the basis of some dynastic custom which may prevail in the particular tribe or district. Could the Special Representative clarify the electoral procedure either by the Council of Elders or by some dynastic criteria? What sort of dynastic criteria did the Special Representative have in mind when he spoke?

Mr. WATIER (Special Representative) (interpretation from French): It may be an autocratic institution, but it may also be an institution which simply expresses a community of interests. It may also be a patriarchal expression of the authority of the head of a large family. The designation of the chief varies according to the nature of the group of chiefs. The Chiffre is not a uniform thing in the various regions; its character changes. There are chiefs who are actually dynastic chiefs, the transmission of whose power is carried on in a closed family, either from father to son, or from uncle to nephew, as often occurs in Africa, and here, the transmission of power is determined entirely by tradition and custom; we are not qualified to modify them. But in most of the African tribes the Chiffre expresses the interests of a human group united by blood, and this consanguinity is expressed by the heads of families; it is an assembly of heads of families. I said in error a few moments ago ^{that it was} an Assembly of Notables, which convenes in order to designate the successor to a chief who has died. That is what occurs in the majority of cases, particularly with the Bamouns and the Bamilekes, who are both dynastic and traditional. Among the Foulbes we find Chiffres which are both dynastic and religious, in which the characteristics of the chiefs are religious and conform with Moslem custom. In that case the rules for the transmission of power are determined by religion, and we cannot interfere in these matters, except by taking a great many precautions.

The meeting was suspended at 4.10 p.m. and resumed at 4.35 p.m.

Mr. SOLDATOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): On page 38 of the 1949 report, it is indicated that only a limited number of Africans were occupying senior administrative posts at that time, owing to the high qualifications required of candidates for such posts.

I should like to know how many Africans have been named to senior posts during the past two years and what those posts were.

Mr. WATIER (Special Representative) (interpretation from French): The 1949 report does in fact state that the fairly high qualifications required of the candidates resulted in the admission of only a limited number of Africans.

In the common cadres, which are those which have been constituted for the higher administration of the Territory, no distinction is drawn for reasons of origin or race, and Africans have the same access to these cadres as Europeans, provided they have the same qualifications. The high common cadres are those dealing with financial questions, general administration and certain technical questions.

In reply to the specific question put by the Soviet Union representative, I should like to say that the question of access to the high common cadres is not so important, since a large number of Africans are already members of those cadres. What is important is the number of actual command posts, or posts of trust, which may be given to Africans, according to their rank. With regard to these command posts, we have already experimented with entrusting certain administrative posts to Africans. We have not had very much success, because those whom we chose had insufficient preparation, from the point of view either of ethics or of general culture. Nevertheless, at present two Cameroonians are occupying posts as assistants to heads of sub-divisions. This will lead subsequently to their being entrusted with the posts of heads of sub-divisions, when they have sufficiently demonstrated their competence in their present posts.

Furthermore, a considerable number of Cameroonians are now occupying posts as cashiers or accountants -- that is, officials entrusted with the management of an important accounting office. Forty-four such posts, in banks, and so forth, are at present occupied by Africans.

In the central services of the Government -- both in the cabinet of the High Commissioner and in the political department -- there are ^{four} posts as heads of bureaux which are occupied by Africans. One is in the cabinet of the High Commissioner, two are in the political department and one is in the personnel department. In the technical services, a large number of Africans are employed as teachers, directors of schools and officials in the postal and telecommunications services. Some Africans manage post offices or are in charge of radio transmission stations and meteorological stations. Finally, in other technical services such as mining, Africans who have undergone a training period as heads of prospecting groups are at present employed at a much higher level than the one which was open to them a few years ago.

As to the posts of higher directors, the report for 1949 rightly stated that it is only in future years that candidates coming from the higher schools of the Territory will fulfil the conditions required to fill such posts.

Mr. SOLDATOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): In the light of the statement on page 38 of the 1949 report that only a limited number of Africans were admitted to senior posts in the Administration, because of the rather high qualifications required of candidates for those posts, I would like to know how many Africans were actually appointed to such senior posts during the two years covered by the reports. I understood the Special Representative to say, and I should like him to clarify it, that there is only one African now occupying a senior post in the Administration, and he is an assistant in a sub-division. I also understood that no senior posts actually in the Administration are occupied by indigenous inhabitants; the posts they do occupy are mostly in the technical services and are not really responsible posts. That is what I gathered from the Special Representative's statement, but perhaps it can be said that the posts in the technical services which he mentioned are also regarded as responsible posts. Are the indigenous inhabitants who occupy such posts engineers, for instance, at the head of some large mine? I should like to learn in detail what posts are occupied by indigenous inhabitants in the technical services.

Mr. WATIER (Special Representative) (interpretation from French): I can only repeat what I said a short while ago; I am afraid there is something which is not functioning correctly between my microphone and the receiving apparatus of the representative of the USSR. What I said was that there are two posts as assistants to heads of sub-divisions and four posts as heads of bureaux. They are not simply persons who obey orders, they have important responsibilities. What we call in France a chef de bureau is the immediate collaborator of the higher directorship. They are important posts. As to the posts of special agents and accountants, those are not of course directors' posts but they are nevertheless posts the occupants of which have very high responsibilities of a financial character and for which technical knowledge is required as well as high moral character, and that cannot be expected of everybody. As to the technical posts, the management of a meteorological station also calls for knowledge, for conscientiousness and scruples, and a very extensive

technical training and general culture. The other posts, of course, are not so much posts of directorial responsibility as posts requiring technicians who give assistance to the directors.

Mr. SOLDATOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): The report for 1949 leads one to the conclusion that the Administration had a choice to make in appointing persons to senior posts in the Administration and that Africans, inasmuch as they did not possess the high qualifications indicated by the Special Representative, were not appointed. I should like to know how many candidates there were for such posts, how the selection was carried out and for what concrete reasons appointments were denied to indigenous inhabitants, if the procedure took such a concrete form.

Mr. WATIER (Special Representative) (interpretation from French): It is a general rule in the French Administration that to occupy a given post certain qualifications are required, and those qualifications are assessed not only on the basis of the degrees or titles which the candidate possesses but also on the basis of his past services. The degrees or titles can be acquired by examination or competition and it is of course through success in a series of examinations that senior officials are appointed. In addition, alongside such technical qualifications, services rendered to the Administration and experience acquired therein, together with the assessments of superiors, are taken into consideration. I presume that the same thing occurs in all the countries in the world.

Mr. SOLDATOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): The answer I sought was a somewhat more concrete one, namely, how many candidates were there for such posts within the last two years and what were the reasons for the non-selection of indigenous candidates, if that information is at the disposal of the Special Representative.

Mr. WATIER (Special Representative) (interpretation from French):

The posts which I referred to a short while ago are not posts which became vacant during the last two years -- at any rate, the posts of heads of bureaus. They were posts which have been occupied by indigenous persons for the last three or even four years. The manner in which they were designated, then, and the number of candidates who asked to fill these posts, are not of very great interest today.

As to the posts as assistants to heads of subdivisions, here, again, it is a case of vacancies which occur rather rarely, and no competition is required. Designation for such a rare post is made among the few candidates who completely fulfil the requirements for exercising such functions. One cannot refer, then, to a given number of candidates for such posts. No competitive examination has been set up for these posts which happen to be vacant. A very small number of Cameroonians really qualify for these posts and can be seriously considered. Therefore, ^{the} choice of the Administration was not a very difficult one.

Mr. SOLDATOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): When the Special Representative told us that indigenous inhabitants were not suitable for various posts, he spoke not only about educational degrees and qualifications, but also about moral qualifications. I should like to have some clarification as to the sort of moral qualification that he is referring to. Do I understand correctly that there were indigenous inhabitants who did fulfil the educational requirements but who did not have the appropriate moral qualifications? If so, what were these moral requirements that those indigenous candidates were unable to fulfil? What was wrong with them?

Mr. WATIER (Special Representative) (interpretation from French):

When I speak of moral qualities that have to be considered in choosing an official who is to be entrusted with functions of authority and high responsibility, it is really a question, in the first place, of professional conscience, which everybody does not possess to a sufficient degree. A great number of Cameroonians consider that the fact of having a degree and being admitted to an administrative function justifies an important salary without corresponding services being required of them, or at least without their devotion going beyond certain

limits which are determined.

What is required is a great familiarity with public matters and official functions, together with professional conscientiousness and an idea of public welfare, which ones does not find among people who have not so far acquired the habit of such responsibilities. It is to that kind of moral qualification that I was referring. Besides that, a certain amount of personal authority is required, a certain dignity in one's way of life and in one's comportment -- and neither is that found among all officials. In order to acquire this habit of responsibility, the ability to exercise authority is required, and this is not possessed by everyone. Those are the moral qualities to which I intended to refer.

Mr. SOLDATOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): I shall, of course, have occasion to revert to this question of qualities and qualifications which were mentioned by the Special Representative and which, he said, are essential for senior posts in the administration.

I should now like to turn to another question: What assistance has been extended to the indigenous inhabitants in order to prepare them and train them for occupying responsible senior posts in the Administration?

Mr. WATIER (Special Representative) (interpretation from French): I think it is precisely the whole of the work of France in the Cameroons which appears as a justification for the requirements laid down for the improvement of the Cameroonians. The progress achieved in education is not the only necessary element for this - but, as I said a short while ago, a whole cycle of examinations and a scale of progressive improvement. Besides that, the actual experience acquired in service will contribute to improve Africans. Moreover, there are courses for adults which contribute to their intellectual and moral improvement. We also have social welfare works, the purpose of which is precisely the intellectual and moral improvement of the indigenous inhabitants, such as cultural centres. All of this, taken as a whole, is the means by which Africans will gradually be led to a higher level.

Mr. SOLDATOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): The Spécial Representative referred to examinations which are used in order to determine the suitability of a candidate for a post. But examinations are administered to persons who have already had a certain amount of schooling. It is evident that the Administering Authority has the duty of preparing or training indigenous persons to administer their country. Consequently, not only primary and secondary education, but also higher education, is required. It is essential to train indigenous inhabitants who can be fully entrusted with responsibility for administering the country. I am therefore interested in the question of whether there exists any system of training of administrative officials from among the indigenous inhabitants, not only for the lower rungs and the middle rungs of the administrative ladder, but also for the higher rungs. How does that system shape up, if any such system exists?

Mr. WATIER (Special Representative) (interpretation from French): The problem of the training of an elite -- because, after all, that might summarize the problem raised by the representative of the USSR -- has engaged the attention of the French Government in the Cameroons for a long while. More particularly, we have recently created a training course of administrative preparation in Yaounde, in which officials participate who wish to gain specific qualifications for attaining higher positions. The courses in this school are given by French senior officials and by professors from the Lycee of Yaounde. On the higher level there are no actual training courses because, in order to be promoted to such a post, one would have to be an official of the middle group, and there the Cameroonians are treated in the same way, of course, as French officials. There is no reason to make any distinction between them and the French officials in view of the fact that they are dealt with in exactly the same manner.

Mr. SOLDATOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): I should like clarification of the following point which it seems may be inferred from what has been said by the Special Representative. It seems that the schools which train indigenous inhabitants to fit them for the occupation of administrative posts do not exist for the highest level. There are courses designed to improve the proficiency and qualification of officials already occupying posts. These are schools for both Europeans and Africans and cover officials of a certain grade. Is my understanding correct?

Mr. WATIER (Special Representative) (interpretation from French): That is exactly the situation. They are courses of administrative training similar to those given in the Ecole d'Administration in Paris, and they are being carried out in the Territory at the present time. They are intended specifically to fit officials for promotion to higher grades. There are no primary or secondary schools solely for administrative preparation. For that matter I do not know of any in France either.

Mr. SOLDATOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): How many European and how many African officials are receiving training in these courses at Youande?

Mr. WATIER (Special Representative) (interpretation from French): Certainly not a great many European officials. The majority of those who take these courses are Africans. Indeed, the courses are provided precisely in order to accelerate their promotion to a higher level. I cannot give the exact number requested, but the information would be easy to obtain. If the representative of the USSR desires the precise figures I shall be glad to obtain them from the Territory.

Mr. SOLDATOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): I should indeed be grateful to the Special Representative if he were kind enough to obtain that information.

My next question on this subject is as follows. Can it be said that the administration follows a definite policy for gradually training indigenous inhabitants for the lower, middle and higher administrative posts with the idea that such indigenous personnel will gradually be called upon to take the place of the European officials serving in the Territory? If such a policy does exist, what concrete measures are being taken to give it expression?

Mr. WATIER (Special Representative) (interpretation from French):

In point of fact there is not at the present time any plan for the systematic replacement of European officials by indigenous officials. Such a plan would be entirely premature at this stage since the Africans have not yet acquired the necessary qualifications for most of the responsible positions. The representative of the USSR is not unaware of the fact that secondary schools have been functioning in the Territory since 1945 only. They are only now beginning to furnish holders of bachelors' degrees who will go to France to undertake higher studies. It is not until the reasonably near future--as opposed to the immediate future -- that we shall be able to contemplate a systematic or, at any rate, a general overall plan for the replacement of European officials by African officials or a plan of collaboration between the two elements.

Mr. SOLDATOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): I am wondering what accounts for the reduction from 634 in 1948 to 627 in 1949 of the number of Africans employed in the general administration. The report for 1949 gives the appropriate figure on page 39. What is the number of Africans in the general administration in 1950? I have unfortunately been unable to find that figure although, of course, it may possibly appear in the report.

Mr. WATIER (Special Representative) (interpretation from French):

In the table on page 39 of the report for 1949 to which the representative of the USSR refers there are three columns -- 1938, 1948 and 1949. It is obvious if one compares the first two columns that the number of Africans employed in general administration has almost doubled since it has risen from 346 to 634. On the other hand, the difference between 1948 and 1949 is minus seven units, a reduction which may well be explained by the normal play of withdrawals or retirements and also by the fact that some officials have had their positions withdrawn from them because, unfortunately, that does occur quite often. We had the officials to whom I referred a short while ago who were entrusted with posts as cashiers and so on, and it happens too often that they have to be arrested or, at least, have to leave their posts because they have committed some questionable act. This kind of thing, of course, may possibly explain this reduction of seven units as between 1948 and 1949. On the other hand,

I should like to point out that the total number of African officials has risen from 6,173 in 1948 to 7,313 in 1949, which is an increase of nearly 1,200 which very easily offsets the quite small reduction to which the representative of the USSR has drawn the attention of the Council.

Mr. SOLDATOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): I failed to catch the number of Africans in the general administration for 1950. We see the figure for 1949 stated here as 627. Has the Special Representative the figure for 1950?

Mr. WATIER (Special Representative) (interpretation from French): I did not quote the figure, and cannot do so from memory.

Mr. SOLDATOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): I should be personally interested in this particular figure. It appears that, for some reason or other, a number of headings in these statistical tables are differently arranged in the 1950 report as compared with the report for 1949. Unfortunately, this sometimes gives rise to difficulty in finding a figure that is statistically comparable in the 1950 report. I should, therefore, be grateful if the figure to which I have referred could be given to us. As I have said, it may be that it appears in the 1950 report under some other heading although I have been unable to find it.

My next question relates to page 37 of the 1949 report. It is stated, in paragraph 209, that the recent reforms, the development of education and economic prosperity have given rise to an increase in the rate of delinquency and vagrancy. I fail to see how these reforms, this educational advancement and this economic prosperity can be said to have led to a growth in delinquency and vagrancy. Others may be able to understand the correlation between these headings: I cannot. I would have said that the reverse should have occurred, and I therefore request clarification of this part of the report.

Mr. WATIER (Special Representative) (interpretation from French): The recent reforms, says the text, such as the development of instruction, education and economic prosperity -- which is certainly an excellent thing -- have had unfortunate repercussions on some young persons. I am surprised that the representative of the USSR could not understand the possibility of unfortunate repercussions on young minds as a result of reforms such as those which gave complete freedom of circulation to populations which did not previously have such advantage. The same applies to economic prosperity, which has placed a lot of money in their hands, and whereby these persons are acquiring the habit of spending it in a rather stupid manner for the satisfaction, sometimes, of the vilest passions; this also applies to the development of instruction^{and}/education, which stimulates a curiosity of young minds on certain subjects which they could not even have thought of previously. All these are quite natural consequences which, with weaker characters and insufficiently protected persons, may develop a juvenile delinquency of an increased tempo, which has been proved. Unfortunately, this was the case in the Cameroons.

Mr. SOLDATOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): The Soviet Union delegation, of course, cannot agree with this explanation, according to which economic prosperity and educational advancement may be held to be conducive to the growth of criminality and vagrancy among the youth of the Territory.

I would request the Special Representative to perhaps give a more profound analysis of this phenomenon, if he finds it possible to do so, because not only the Soviet Union delegation but, it would seem to me, some other delegations might also find themselves unable to agree with the theory that educational advancement and economic prosperity may be held to lead to an increase in vagrancy and criminality. This is impossible. Some other reasons must be present here. What are these reasons? If the Special Representative would find it possible to explain the situation in greater detail, I would be thankful. If he did not, I would be constrained to analyse this matter myself, in greater detail, when we proceed to examine the chapters on economic and social advancement. But if the Special Representative would find it possible to answer this question now, this would be fortunate.

Mr. WATIER (Special Representative) (interpretation from French):

It is a very generally recognized fact that when an individual is brutally extracted from his normal surroundings, either moral or physical, the reactions of such an extraction are very often at the destruction of the moral equilibrium of the individual concerned. It is a fact which is current experience, and all those who have dealt with lesser developed populations know this kind of shock which civilization gives to minds which are transported too rapidly into a new element. On the other hand, this uprooting is also a fact in the economic field. When an important amount of wealth is placed at the disposal of young persons, it is often a fact, unfortunately, that it is ill used. An economic prosperity also leads to a completely new social state, which is that of the concentration in the towns, where Africans who are accustomed to country lives and to tribal organizations suddenly find themselves cast into a new life which completely uproots them. They especially find themselves exposed to all forms of temptation represented by money easily earned and, very often, there is ^{the} means of amusement, such as the cinema, dance-halls and so forth, which, unfortunately, in the Cameroons, is also represented by easy living, thanks to the help of a few loose women. This of course does not contribute to the moral uplift of youth, and whatever the representative of the USSR may think of this, these elements must be considered as factors of disorder which contribute to the development of delinquency and vagrancy, especially among young people.

If other members of the Trusteeship Council, as was mentioned by the representative of the USSR, consider that my explanation was contrary to common sense or could not be confirmed by facts, I would be happy to quote more specific cases, which the courts of the Cameroons can give as an illustration of what I have just stated.

Mr. SOLDATOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): Of course, it would be indeed desirable to obtain more concrete facts and concrete cases capable of explaining this entirely extraordinary, from our point of view, explanation. What is the inference? What is the conclusion? The conclusion would be that under such conditions civilization is conducive to criminality and vagrancy among the youth. This would be the inference -- at least among a certain category of youth not heretofore affected by these ills.

What sort of civilization is that, where schools and economic prosperity are conducive toward vagrancy and criminality among youth, or among a certain category of youth, as the Special Representative put it? What sort of schools are these, and what type of economic prosperity is it which leads to nothing better than criminality and vagrancy among groups of the youth of the country? Let us consider a school. What can be more normal and lofty than a school, where a young man or a young woman may receive education. I am not speaking only of primary schools, but also of secondary schools where high moral standards are inculcated to them, and where they receive an opportunity to obtain a more or less tolerable standard of living. All of a sudden, what is the outcome? Criminality and vagrancy.

Very often indeed, the explanation which is given is a contrary one. It is often contended that economic difficulties, the lack of economic support, the lack of education, the lack of schooling and the lack of instruction, the lack of these, it is often contended by criminologists, lead to vagrancy and criminality. But here it is the contrary. It is said here that civilization, schools and economic prosperity are the factors which are conducive to criminality and vagrancy among the youth. The Soviet Union delegation, at least, finds it quite impossible to agree to this, because the examples that we know of speak of the contrary. Hundreds, thousands and even millions of examples could be adduced to show contrary results as ensuing from this phenomena. But I note that the Special Representative has stated that he could supply concrete examples to explain this phenomena. I would be thankful indeed for these concrete examples which I am sure would be of great interest to the Trusteeship Council as a whole.

Mr. PIGNON (France) (interpretation from French): The representative of the Soviet Union has given a very extensive interpretation to a sentence of a paragraph which of course has its importance in the general text of the report but which does not have the value of a thesis from the point of view of the French Government in any case. Those extensive interpretations of course go completely outside the actual facts and have been given through concern for complete objectivity and information. It simply pointed out the fact, which is well known, of the shock of contact of two civilizations, that there is an intermediate period during which a certain number of young people are somewhat unbalanced by the shock. It does not mean in any way that we expect to erect upon this a condemnation of education and of the value of civilization in itself. No Frenchman has ever thought^{that}, and I recognize the pleasure in the words of the representative of the Soviet Union, as it recalls a certain number of theses which we heard in primary school...those of Victor Hugo who asked that the prisons be closed and that the schools be opened. I quite agree with this point of view of the representative of the Soviet Union.

We have simply said that the appearance of a completely temporary phenomenon which has been found in the Cameroons and elsewhere, and which has also certainly been found under other skies, is entirely a temporary phenomenon which is not a hindrance to development. On the contrary, it must develop even more, but we cannot avoid even more the appearance at a certain moment of this disequilibrium. It is not serious. We simply note it here because we have to be objective.

Mr. SOLDATOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): I should like to offer a clarification. It is not the delegation of the Soviet Union but the Special Representative who told us about the consequences said to follow from the introduction of civilization in those circumstances. In fact it is the Soviet Union delegation which thinks that this statement is incorrect. It is incorrect to say what paragraph 209 on page 37 of the report for 1949 states. The thesis defended by the Special Representative is likewise incorrect, and that is why the Soviet Union delegation wished to hear some concrete examples of how it happens, in order that we may get an idea for the reasons of the existence of juvenile vagrancy and criminality and delinquency in the Trust Territory because we should like to know how it happens that such things occur. However, I added that since the

matter may be held to apply to the chapters on economic and social advancement, may I postpone it until then so as not to clutter up our discussion on the chapter of political advancement, since we shall have the opportunity to take the matter up again later when it will be relevant. At any rate, I do not have any further questions on political advancement.

The PRESIDENT: If there are no other questions on political advancement, we shall now turn to questions on economic advancement. Does any delegation wish to ask questions on economic advancement? The members of the Council need not be too shy to put up their hands the first time. If there are no further questions, I shall pass on to other questions.

I want to tell the Council that one day I am going to pass straight on to the next section if nobody responds to my appeals.

Mr. DAVIN (New Zealand): I was reluctant once again to start off this discussion. I felt sure that other members would have questions to ask; the situation nearly went by default.

I just have two or three questions. We notice from page 58 of the 1950 report that there are two budgets in the Territory. There is a local budget and the annual budget of the Ten-Year Plan. In the budget of the Ten-Year Plan large public works are financed. It is also made clear on page 164 of the report, which sets forth the Ten-Year Plan, that it comes from subsidies on the one hand from the Metropolitan Government and from advances from the Caisse Centrale; for example, on the total expenditure ^{or} 4,654,000,000 francs, a rather odd figure, spent up to 31 December 1950, something over 2,000,000,000 came from subsidies and another 2,000,000,000 from advances. The interest and amortization of the advances from the Caisse Centrale appear to be borne by the local budget without upsetting its equilibrium. As a matter of interest, I wonder if the Special Representative could give us the average or the approximate rate of interest for advances from the Caisse Centrale -- that is to say, the interest that would be amortized and carried on the local budget.

Mr. WATIER (Special Representative) (interpretation from French): The advances made by the Caisse Centrale to the Territory are made in very advantageous conditions since they are made at the rate of one per cent with very lengthy possibilities of reimbursement.

Mr. DAVIN (New Zealand): On page 118 of the 1950 report, an account is given of the co-operative movement in the French Cameroons. Particular mention is made of the failure of the co-operative dealing in cocoa. It is stated that the results were at first very encouraging, planters sold their produce at a good price and were supplied regularly and abundantly with merchandise from the co-operative shops which were scattered throughout the Territory. Then the story of bad luck begins. It is stated that at the end of 1948 certain funds were missing and that this was attributable to the clerks in charge; then it is later stated that in 1949, after free exchange had been re-established and competition had begun to play its part again, trade resumed its full activity and co-operatives which did not possess the same financial and material resources could only continue to get cocoa by over-paying the planters and selling part of their stocks of merchandise at prices less than cost. They could not meet their commitments and the majority went into liquidation. It appears that about twelve such organizations were affected.

My delegation feels that this failure of the co-operative concerns dealing with cocoa seems to be a great pity. I wonder if the Special Representative could explain why the co-operatives over-paid planters in order to get cocoa and why they let their stocks of merchandise go at less than cost price. Perhaps this arose as the result of a price war caused by large firms over-bidding for cocoa and under-selling merchandise, or ^{was it} some other form of concerted attack on the co-operative system? If that were the case, I wonder if the Administering Authority considered any measures practicable to protect the co-operative institutions.

Mr. WATIER (Special Representative) (interpretation from French): It is stated in the report that the existence of important losses was noted in shops, which ^{losses} were blamed on the clerks in charge. Here again we have the question of moral training and formation of the Cameroonians. The co-operative organizations entrusted this responsibility to clerks who were not absolutely worthy of such trust. Because of these losses, the co-operative societies were led to liquidate their assets and to sell cocoa under less favourable conditions which did not pay the indigenous planter the proper price. I would add that this difficulty encountered by the co-operative system in the Cameroons has contributed in major part to cleaning up some of them, which were organized by Cameroonians who wanted to see to their personal affairs. These faulty institutions gradually disappeared with a certain amount of loss for their members. On the other hand, the more serious and properly organized ones, those which accepted the advice of the Administration and which sent in their statements and accounts for control by the service of co-operatives, have shown a very favourable situation. At the present time they continue to enjoy a financial position which is excellent and are also useful to the Cameroonian co-operatives.

Mr. DAVIN (New Zealand): I have just one more question on this heading. It is rather a minor one.

I notice on page 76 of the report for 1950 that at the beginning of the dry season there was an abnormal development on banana trees of the type known as Gros Michel of a disease called bout de cigare -- I am not sure of the name in English -- and that the agent which caused this has not been determined. I wonder if the Special Representative could tell us whether this disease is spread at all? Is there any information as to its cause and possible remedy? How serious a problem is it?

Mr. WATIER (Special Representative) (interpretation from French): I confess that I would find great difficulty in giving very specific information to the representative of New Zealand as regards the spread of this disease in the Territory. What I do know is that the agricultural services have immediately taken the necessary sanitary steps which they deem the most appropriate to check this disease. In any case, if we judge by the results in production, it would not appear that the Cameroonian banana plantations have suffered very considerably from this disease since the production has gone from 35,000 tons to 65,000 tons.

Mr. DAVIN (New Zealand): I would agree that this problem does not appear to be a very serious one. I am grateful for the explanation from the Special Representative.

Those are all the questions I had on this section. I wish to thank the Special Representative for his replies.

Mr. SAYRE (United States of America): I have been looking at page 65 of the 1950 report. At the bottom of that page in the right-hand column, the budget figures for 1951 are given. The largest figure by far is that of 226 million francs for the construction of buildings for Europeans and Africans. Could the Special Representative tell us what part of that 226 million francs is for European dwellings and what part is for African dwellings? Would he happen to have that figure in mind?

Mr. WATIER (Special Representative) (interpretation from French): I am not in a position, unfortunately, to give the exact breakdown of these figures as to European and African houses. I do not think it is possible at the present time to do so. Actually a global figure has been provided which corresponds to the general requirement of the Administration because it is only the housing of officials. Of course, there is a much larger number of Africans to house as compared to Europeans. It is probable that the African figure will absorb the major part of this credit, and be much higher than that for the European housing.

This expenditure will be carried out over several budgetary periods and the figure will be determined only as we go along.

Mr. SAYRE (United States of America): On page 78 of the 1950 report, near the top of the right-hand column, it is shown that the annual cocoa production of the French Cameroons is tending to stabilize at about roughly 45,000 tons. Could the Special Representative give us the details as to the price received by the African producer for his cocoa, which is one of the important crops? Is there a standard price fixed? Do all African producers receive that price? Does the price depend on the locality? How is that handled? Does the Special Representative know what the price received is?

Mr. WATIER (Special Representative)(Interpretation from French): The price of cocoa is actually determined by the price on the world market and it is, of course, variable. It is on this world price, FOB Douala, that the price is established. It varies from one area to another according to the distance to the port of export. Cocoa producers are assured of receiving the most favourable remuneration since purchases of cocoa all take place in purchasing centres and on definite dates. The Administering Authority publishes in these markets the world price of cocoa at the time at which the purchase is to take place; thus, the discussion between the indigenous inhabitant and the cocoa purchaser is not carried out on a fictitious basis, but on the basis of the price at which the indigenous inhabitant may hope to sell his cocoa. At the last cocoa sales the prices paid to the indigenous inhabitant were from sixty-five francs to eighty francs for one kilogramme, which is a most satisfactory remuneration for such an easy product to grow as cocoa.

Mr. SAYRE (United States of America): If I understand correctly, each local cocoa producer makes his own sale to these purchasing agents. That is to say, that the matter is not governed or controlled by any kind of marketing board or official organization, but rather by purchasers who, in each case, make their own contract with the local cocoa producer. Is my understanding correct?

Mr. WATIER (Special Representative)(Interpretation from French): It is correct that the purchase of cocoa is carried out according to the free play of supply and demand. It is, however, modified by the administrative precaution which is posted in the cocoa market, giving the FOB price of cocoa on that date. Thus, the competition between purchasers can take place only within certain specific and narrow limits, and the producer is assured of receiving as high a price as possible in the conditions prevailing.

Mr. SAYRE (United States of America): On page 88 of the 1950 report mention is made of an interesting and important new bureau created on 22 November 1949. I refer to the Bureau of Soil. That Bureau, true enough, was set up only a little over a year and a half ago, but it is such an interesting experiment and so important in its possible results, if it prevents

or meets effectively the evils of soil erosion, that I wonder whether the Special Representative could give us any information as to actual experience in the Bureau. How effective have the results proved?

Mr. WATIER (Special Representative) (interpretation from French): As the 1950 report states, the main objective of the Bureau of Soils is to study ways and means of avoiding soil depletion or erosion in the mountains, particularly in the Bamileke area, where there is a dense population. It is therefore most desirable to see to it that soil conservation measures are taken in the Bamileke area. This applies to the crops to be used for soil conservation. I might say that it is rather early to speak of positive results. In studies like this, a number of years is necessary before we can learn what has been the repercussion on the soil composition of the use of certain crops. Certain chemical and agrinomical studies will have to be carried out, and it will take a number of years before valid conclusions can be drawn from this soil conservation work.

The activities of this Bureau directly affect the life of the Cameroons, and I think this innovation will be felicitous, economically speaking, for the Territory.

Mr. SAYRE (United States of America): My delegation very heartily hopes so.

Mr. RYCKMANS (Belgium) (interpretation from French): In the right-hand column of page 57 of the 1950 report, we read that measures have been taken to retain the price of certain export products at a normal level. I should like to know what these measures are. Is it simply a matter of increasing the ^{export} duties?

Mr. WATIER (Special Representative) (interpretation from French): No compensation funds have been set up, but, in agreement with the producers, the grading of products at the point of export has been improved. Standards have been set which give a certain value to the product, in order that prices may be maintained at a reasonable level.

On the other hand, certain compensation taxes are levied, particularly on cocoa, where the drop in price sometimes leads to the complete ruination of the producers.

Mr. RYCKMANS (Belgium) (interpretation from French): Here, however, we are dealing rather with the contrary case. The report indicates that it is considered appropriate to limit to the maximum extent possible the fluctuations caused by the attraction of labour to those activities which they find most remunerative.

I presume, for instance, that if the price of palm oil greatly increases, people will give up ~~salariéd~~ labour in order to produce palm oil. When, however, the price of palm oil goes down, these people will rush back to town to take up salariéd labour.

The Administration, it seems to me, has tried to take steps to avoid any excessive rises in the price of export products, since that might disturb the internal economy. In ^{certain} Territories, such as the British Territories in East Africa, definite prices have been paid for cocoa, and compensation funds have been set up in which rather large amounts are deposited. During periods of great prosperity, a part of the compensation fund is devoted to financing research projects on cocoa, and so forth, but, if prices go down too much, the fund is used to grant compensation to producers.

Elsewhere, customs duties have been instituted. These duties are progressive; they increase by a certain percentage when the value of the product increases. This, to a certain extent, limits too ^{great} fluctuations in price.

I should therefore like to know exactly what measures in this field are being taken in the French Cameroons.

Mr. WATIER (Special Representative)(interpretation from French): In reality, the two groups of measures were used, since taxation from cocoa varies according to the prices paid to the producers and, at the same time, a support fund for cocoa is maintained from the additional receipts which may be collected in times of high prices to compensate for reductions in price. As the report indicates, this fund prevents prices from attaining levels which might be dangerous to the local economy.

Mr. RYCKMANS (Belgium)(interpretation from French): Does the report give details of the financial state of the support fund?

Mr. WATIER (Special Representative)(interpretation from French): I do not think so.

Mr. RYCKMANS (Belgium)(interpretation from French): Another question which has concerned our delegation for many years is that of forestry reserves. It would appear that the propaganda conducted by the Administration to convince the indigenous inhabitants that the establishment of forest reserves is of vital importance for the country has not been very successful so far and that even the classification of forests into forests which may be considered as of communal interest and forests which may be considered as of national interest is not understood by the indigenous inhabitants. The villagers consider that they are entitled to destroy the forests if they want and that they are entitled to clear trees and carry on their cultivation in the forests if they desire to do so. The Administration is telling them that once the forests are destroyed they will never grow again and the villagers will be the first to suffer. Does the Administration hope to succeed by propaganda, or, realizing its responsibility for the future, does it contemplate taking steps of a more definite kind if it does not manage to convince the indigenous inhabitants of the need?

Mr. WATIER (Special Representative)(interpretation from French): The question of forests gives constant concern to the Administration, so much so that we wish to introduce classification before deforestation leads to irreparable damage. I have had occasion to point out that the indigenous inhabitants of the Cameroons have reacted rather violently to this idea of classification.

They did not understand the spirit in which it was proposed and their ill-will took the form of a refusal by their representative in the Representative Assembly to accept the new classification regulation proposed by the Administration. The best method to induce the indigenous inhabitants to consent to such classification would be a systematic propaganda, which has already been begun in the schools. We are trying to show the children how desirable it is to protect the forests both on the state level and on the territorial level, as no other form of protection would be efficacious.

In 1950 the matter was raised on still higher levels when it was brought before the metropolitan government. The representatives of the African dependencies of France had asked for and even suggested a modification of the forestry regulations and the matter is now being studied with a view to the preparation of a bill to be submitted to Parliament, so that the whole matter may be dealt with under laws which are shortly to be debated by Parliament. Action in this field in the Cameroons is now in abeyance pending the adoption of these measures.

Mr. RYCKMANS (Belgium) (interpretation from French): I should like to have an explanation of something which I find on page 221. The Administration is studying the possibility of limiting the clandestine manufacture and the consumption of alcohol -- palm wine, for instance -- the damage from this among the population being even more considerable than the damage from imported alcohol. Is it distilled alcohol or simply palm wine?

Mr. WATIER (Special Representative) (interpretation from French): It is distilled alcohol.

Mr. RYCKMANS (Belgium) (interpretation from French): I would protest if it were a step taken against palm wine, which is full of vitamins and very excellent. It plays a most important part in the diet of the indigenous inhabitants.

I should like to know whether the method of preventive bush fires, which was adopted because the indigenous inhabitants would not accept total prohibition of bush fires, has met with a favourable welcome from the indigenous inhabitants, and whether the Administration is satisfied with the results.

Mr. WATIER (Special Representative) (interpretation from French): I can tell you about the experience in the Benoue region, where bush fires made considerable incursions into reforestation. With the help of the chiefs, some pressure was exercised to get the constituents of various chiefs to respect the principle, and we have had very interesting results. As the rains commenced, the bush grew more lustily than ever before. We set up some preventive fires in the east, and in the west we let the indigenous inhabitants do as they wished. We could see the comparative results of the two systems. I think that is the best propaganda, the best way to convince them of the utility of this procedure for preventing the destruction of the bush.

Mr. DUSSAUT (Argentina) (interpretation from French): I should like some clarification. In the report for 1950, on page 63, there are comparative tables of expenditures on the local budget. We find that there are regular expenditures, amounting to 4,271,561,000 francs, and extraordinary expenditures,

amounting to 2,700,000 francs. The details of the regular expenditures are given in Chapters A, B, C, D and E, on pages 59 to 62. For the extraordinary expenditures, however, I do not find any chapters G and H, which would contain the relevant details. What are these extraordinary expenditures?

Mr. WATIER (Special Representative) (interpretation from French):
These expenditures are the ones which do not ordinarily fall under the financial year in question. They are the ones which take the form of a loan -- extraordinary expenditures -- that is, credits taken from the reserve funds so as to provide advances for the ten-year plan.

Some of the works under the ten-year plan are financed by the Overseas France Treasury, and some of the financial years of the various organs overlap. Some run from July to July -- that of the Overseas France Treasury, for instance -- while that of the local treasury runs from January to January. In order not to interrupt certain works it was provided that they should be financed by advances from the local budget to the Caisse d'Avance de la France d'Outremer. Next year we shall find these expenses for the extraordinary budget reimbursed from the budget of the Overseas France Treasury.

Mr. DUSSAUT (Argentina)(Interpretation from French): I understand what the Special Representative says, but I see that chapters A, B, C, D and E are explained here whereas chapters G and H are not. We have only the verbal explanation of the Special Representative for these last.

Mr. WATIER (Special Representative)(Interpretation from French): I regret that this was not covered in the report. The chapters dealing with works under the ten-year plan will undoubtedly take up these expenses which were, unfortunately, not covered in the report but which will be covered eventually.

Mr. DUSSAUT (Argentina)(Interpretation from French): In order to clarify this matter I think that in future it might be better to include a short explanatory chapter dealing with these figures, particularly when it is a question of almost half the amount involved, which is an important sum and one which deserves explanation.

The PRESIDENT: On Monday the Drafting Committee on the Cameroons under British Administration will meet at Flushing in the office of the President at 10.30 a.m., and the Drafting Committee on the Trust Territory of Ruanda-Urundi will meet here in Conference Room A, also at 10.30 a.m.

At 2 p.m. on Monday the Council will continue the debate on the Cameroons under French Administration.

The meeting rose at 6 p.m.