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Held at Flushing Meadow, New York,  
on Tuesday, 10 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.369 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, T/903, T/910; T/L.182) (continued)

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: Yesterday we began discussion on social advancement. Does any representative wish to ask questions on this subject?

Mr. Shih-shun LIU (China): Yesterday we were speaking about skilled labour, economic advancement and the importation of European workers into the Territory. I have a question in regard to unskilled labour. Is there any similar shortage of unskilled labour? With the population of 3 million in the Territory, I should think that there would be a plentiful supply of unskilled labour. Is that the situation?

Mr. WATIER (Special Representative) (interpretation from French): It would appear, in fact, that Cameroonian manpower ought to satisfy all requirements for unskilled labour. Nevertheless the accelerated ten-year development programme has had to call upon large amounts of manpower, which demand was not filled by the inhabitants of the Territory. Most of them are engaged in agricultural work. Consequently there is no considerable excess manpower for urban work and road and other construction in connexion with the Territory's communication network.

It has been computed that the ten-year development plan will require about 15,000 unskilled labourers during 1950-1951. The Territory will furnish these unskilled labourers though with some trouble. These requirements for manpower will continue although they will gradually decrease so that by the end of the plan, in five years, there will be no additional demand for unskilled manpower.



On the other hand, manpower brought in from Europe in many cases has been unskilled although most of the labourers from Europe were skilled. As far as unskilled labour is concerned, it may be said that the bulk of it has been supplied by the Territory itself.

Mr. Shih-Shun LIU (China): My delegation is interested in the activities of the trade unions in the matter of strikes. Did anything of that kind happen, particularly with regard to wage claims during the two years under review?

Mr. WATIER (Special Representative)(interpretation from French): There have in fact been some difficulties between employers and employees during the period covered by the report, and the Labour Service has had occasion to intervene in connexion with partial strikes. Those interventions of our labour service have resulted for the most part in the conciliation of the labour disputes involved. During 1950, 1,918 cases of labour controversies with regard to pay, vacations and leave were settled. However, numerous cases had to go to the courts for judicial settlement. It may be seen that the difficulties that may arise between employers and employees are for the most part settled by the administrative intervention of the Labour Section.

As regards actual strikes, there have been a number of incidents of that nature during 1950. The Labour Inspection Service had to settle 44 cases of what may be called collective disputes, some of which took the form of strikes, either partial or total. Twenty strikes took place in 1950 throughout the Territory.

Mr. Shih-Shun LIU (China): What was the result of the conciliations that took place? Did some of those disputes result in the increase of wages?

Mr. WATIER (Special Representative)(interpretation from French): I am unable to supply details with regard to each of the cases that the Labour Service considered and dealt with during the year. I do not have detailed statistics on that function with me, but I may say that whenever difficulties are settled by conciliation between employer and employee it may be presumed that the employees' requests have been partly or fully met. That may apply to wages. Out of approximately 2,000 cases in 1950, about 768 cases concerned wage problems, and a not inconsiderable part of those resulted in wage increases because if such wage

increases had not been granted conciliation would not have been as successful as it was.

Mr. Shih-Shun LIU (China): At the sixth session of the Trusteeship Council it was noted that there were complaints about segregation of Africans in hotels and other places and about differentiation between Africans and Europeans in matters of opportunity for employment, wage and salary rates and hospital treatment. Has any progress been made during the year under review?

Mr. WATIER (Special Representative) (interpretation from French): The question of racial discrimination had already been raised in the Trusteeship Council when the administration of the Cameroons previously gave an account of its work. At that time in the past we declared that in principle there was no such thing as racial discrimination. The treatment of an individual did not vary according to his origin or colour. There are differences of wage rates as between Europeans and indigenous inhabitants. Such differences as do exist are explained by differences in productivity. If one employed European workers, as we did at the Edea Dam, their productivity was ten times that of the indigenous inhabitants in the same trade. After a while the productivity of the indigenous inhabitants, profiting from the examples of Europeans working alongside of them, improved considerably, and their wages were increased proportionately to their productivity. The principle that governs wage rates in the Cameroons is equal pay for equal productivity. I might say that any other signs of racial discrimination that may have existed in the Cameroons in the past have been entirely eliminated during the years covered by the report.

If you wish, I can read a circular addressed to the regional chiefs by the High Commissioner dated 27 January 1951, when cases of racial discrimination were brought to the attention of the High Commissioner. It reads:

"The greater part of the stores and public places in the Territory, particularly in the urban centres, have removed signs saying 'sales to Europeans' or 'sales to indigenous inhabitants', which implied distinctions based on the colour of the customer. No such racial discrimination is admissible inasmuch as it is contrary to the spirit of our civilization and to the principles proclaimed by the Constitution of the Fourth Republic."

"It has been pointed out to me that such signs still remain in certain commercial establishments. Will you kindly proceed to make an enquiry on this subject and also make representations to the businessmen in your district in order that they might remove those signs which can cause irritation not only of the indigenous population but also of our consciences?"

"Will you please report the result of this enquiry and also the success of the steps that you will have taken eventually in the execution of the present instructions?"

It may be seen from this text of the High Commissioner that it is clear that even the appearances of racial discrimination that might have been inferred from signs reserving certain sales places to Europeans and indigenous inhabitants have been proscribed in the Territory, and we are making every effort to remove any remains of such practices that may be in any way reminiscent or suggestive of discrimination.

Mr. Shih-shun LIU (China): I am grateful to the Special Representative for his replies, and have no further questions on the social advancement aspect of the matter.

Mr. SAYRE (United States of America): Pursuing the last question put by the representative of China, may I ask the Special Representative the following? I see from page 206 of the report for 1950 that at Douala, for instance, there is a hospital for Europeans with a capacity of 45 to 50 beds and another hospital for Africans with a capacity of 350 to 380 beds. Has the Administering Authority given consideration to the possibility of opening the European hospital to Africans on the same basis as Europeans? In other words, is there a strictly racial distinction between those who may enter the one hospital and those who may enter the other, or are the two hospitals separate in the sense that one furnishes facilities which Africans would be inclined to desire and the other such facilities as Europeans would desire, with the Africans being free to pay the fees and utilize the European hospital if they prefer European institutions? I should be interested to learn what is the situation with regard to these two hospitals at Douala.

Mr. WATIER (Special Representative) (interpretation from French): When we speak of "hospital for Europeans" and "hospital for Africans" we use those titles because they are the ones to which we are accustomed by tradition, but that does not mean that there is really a segregation according to race. Europeans have been cared for in hospitals set up for them because they were in a position to pay more for treatment. However, the Administering Authority has always considered that the Africans should receive free hospital care. In other words, a hospital for Africans is one in which treatment is given free, whereas a hospital for Europeans is one in which some fee is charged. Naturally, if an African is well to do and wishes to have the ~~services offered for Europeans~~ the European hospital is quite open to him provided, of course, that he pays the same fees as Europeans would pay. I must emphasize that this is not a case of racial discrimination. The fact that the hospitals are described as "a hospital for Europeans" and "a hospital for Africans" simply means that some hospitals charge a fee for medical services while the others, usually described as "hospitals for Africans", make no charge.

Mr. SAYRE (United States of America): I have been interested in reading on page 22 of the report, the account of the Service de l'Habitat which was set up in December 1950 to study the housing problem and to draw up plans for different types of construction. I should be interested to know whether the Administering Authority or the Service de l'Habitat has any plans for establishing at an early date co-operative low-cost housing projects within the Territory. The Service de l'Habitat is such an interesting institution that I should very much like to know more about its activities.

Mr. WATIER (Special Representative) (interpretation from French): The housing problem in the Cameroons has two aspects. First there are the buildings which must be erected by the Administration to house its European and African officials: secondly, there is the question of housing in general. It is sought to establish better health standards in housing, but naturally the two aspects of the problem require different solutions. In connexion with the erection of houses for African officials -- that is to say, for the more advanced indigenous inhabitants -- the Administration has arranged competitions in which interest has been shown by both Africans and Europeans. These competitions have been held in various cities and, in particular, in Yaounde, and as a result certain types of housing were agreed upon and the local services are at present providing these houses for rent in such a way as to make it possible for the Africans to own them after having paid the rent for a certain number of years. The rent, of course, is fixed at a sum which is within the means of the Africans, and the houses themselves have been built with the assistance of credits granted for the purpose.

With regard to housing projects and town planning for the various regions of the Territory, the Administration has concentrated on certain pilot projects of model villages in which it is sought to present types of village organization to the indigenous inhabitants. These are low-cost projects and are designed to improve the housing facilities open to the Africans. One of the basic problems which remain is that construction material is extremely costly. If the resources of the Territory itself are alone available for building houses the houses will be unhygienic. If a more healthy type of house is desired the basic costs involved are always rather high. At present the Service de l'Habitat is primarily concerned with finding a system of financing



which would make it possible to expand the housing project speedily following the pattern set by the model villages already established in the Territory.

Mr. SAYRE (United States of America): My next question relates to the population. I notice from page 271 of the 1950 report that the total of the European population has increased from 8,998 on 1 January 1950 to more than 12,000 on 31 December of the same year. That prompted me to look at the population statistics for Europeans during the past few years. I notice that on 1 January 1943 the European population stood at 2,650, on 15 April 1946 at 3,875, that on 1 January 1948 it had jumped to 5,800, on 1 January 1949 to 7,000 and that now, as we read in the 1950 report, it has risen to over 12,000.



That is a proportionately considerably larger increase, I believe, than the increases of other nationalities in the population. I would be interested in knowing further details with regard to this increase of the European population. Are these people entering the Territory with the idea of becoming permanent settlers? Are they people possessing regular occupations which they expect to pursue within the Territory? Are they perhaps farmers or artisans who will remain there with their families, more or less permanently? I should be very interested in gaining a little more knowledge as to the exact character of this fast increasing European population.

Mr. WATIER (Special Representative) (interpretation from French): The rapid growth of the population of the Cameroons has of course been adverted to by the French Government. Before we enter into any details as to the demographic characteristics of the Cameroons population, I should like to point out that the phenomenon is not peculiarly Cameroonian at all. All of Africa is emerging rapidly from the period of stagnation in which it was wallowing for hundreds of years; throughout Central and Western Africa one may note an influx of capital and of Europeans, who in turn work together to develop the territory ever more rapidly.

As far as the Cameroons is concerned, the number of European immigrants there is indicative of the fact that the Territory is hastening its own development. But it must be noted that a number of these immigrants are not expected to remain there. Large projects are being undertaken now for the economic base of the Territory, and these large construction projects, in turn, require manpower. This is covered partly by the temporary immigrants who will not settle in the Territory.

Nevertheless, the real growth of the population is notable. The 12,000 people who comprised the white population of the Cameroons towards the end of 1950 included 6,022 heads of families, who are distributed as follows: there are 2,290 officials; that is, more than one-third of these family heads are officials who work directly toward the development of the Cameroons. There are 1,213 tradesmen and trade employees who work in the distribution branch of the economy. Industrial employers and employees number 1,044. Taking these groups together we get the sum of 5,000 odd persons out of the 6,022 heads of families of European descent now in the Cameroons. The remainder include

about 550 missionaries, 349 entrepreneurs of public works and 212 planters. The planters are the ones who definitely settle in the Territory, and one may see how few of them there are as compared with the total population. There are 156 forestry workers, 72 mining workers, 25 foremen and another few dozen persons who are chauffeurs, tailors, pharmacists, printers, doctors, watchmakers, ivory-workers and others of similar occupations.

As this very quick summary should make clear, among the industrialists and industrial workers in the Cameroons -- 1,044 of them, that is -- some will leave and others will come to replace them when the Edea Dam will supply a considerable amount of electric power which will speed up the industrialization of the Territory.

In brief, however, it may be said that the influx of Europeans is not about to stop at all. The Cameroons has not absorbed the maximum immigration of which it is capable, and we may expect this immigration movement to be accelerate. This is not something which should cause concern. This is a proof of the vitality of the Territory. It is proof of the efforts made by the French Government and by private individuals to hasten the exploitation and development of this great Territory.

Mr. SAYRE (United States of America): My last question relates to the statements on page 188 of the 1950 report, where the various problems in connexion with the fundamental rights of man and his liberties are dealt with. In reading that page of the report, as I understand it, the principles, if not many of the actual regulations, of the French Penal Code are made applicable to the indigenous peoples of the Cameroons, or at least have been so made applicable since 1946. This matter has been touched upon previously. It always interests me to know how far it is possible, practicable and wise to apply to peoples of a background so different from that of metropolitan France the actual provision of the French Penal Code.

We have the same problem in all of our Trust Territories, I suppose. I would be very interested in hearing the Special Representative give us something of this picture, the difficulties that might be involved and how the situation is working out.

Mr. WATIER (Special Representative) (interpretation from French): Of course it is true that, a priori, the application of the Penal Code developed for a country as civilized and developed as France to less highly developed territories or under-developed territories, such as the Cameroons, was bound to give rise to certain problems. In point of fact, these problems did crop up and certain difficulties were encountered.

The French Government considered that the Penal Code rests on principles which are of universal validity and application. The Penal Code rests on principle of basic humanism, and that is why it was felt it should be applied despite the fact that certain local difficulties might be encountered in applying the Code to the Territory. The difficulties which cropped up were of various types, some of a legal or juridical nature; it is quite evident that certain offences could not be covered by the provisions of the Penal Code because these offences derived from the life of the inhabitants of the Territory themselves. For instance, there are offences which involve the dowry of a bride. This is not covered by the French Penal Code.

Other evils, or offences such as cannibalism arose in the Territory, but they were not obviously considered in the Code when it was elaborated in France. Successive legislation was therefore introduced to cover offences which would not come up in metropolitan territory but which might come up in the Cameroons. From the material point of view, other obstacles and difficulties have arisen. Justice as it was previously meted out in the Territory was in close connexion with the Administration of the country itself. The living customs of the Africans had been adjusted or adopted to the French Administration. One of the privileges of the chiefs was to hand down sentences and to act as magistrate of the tribes. France, however, inherited the powers usually wielded by the chiefs, but maintained this custom. Justice, until the reform of 1946, had been meted out by indigenous tribunals presided over by administrative officials who were automatically members of the tribunal.

The reform of the penal code, however, has completely altered this concept of justice, and it had been decided to introduce a complete separation of powers. This now prevails throughout the Territory. In order to apply this separation of power, it was naturally necessary to introduce a certain number of career judges or magistrates who would be wholly independent of the executive branch. It was necessary to provide housing facilities as well as court houses for these magistrates. These buildings would be separate from the offices provided for administrative purposes. All these changes meant some degree of uncertainty during the transition period.

At the present time, however, these difficulties have in large part been overcome. Some of the other difficulties have also been taken care of, in particular the delay which was inevitably due to the change in the administration of justice. For a while there was a dearth of magistrates. This involved some delay in handing out sentences in courts. Many of the indigenous inhabitants were somewhat taken aback in noting that certain outright crimes and offences were not immediately the subject of sentences. However, since there were many offences to be dealt with, some of the criminals or offenders had to be detained in prisons for some time before the tribunal could take up their cases. Others who were subsequently freed by the court also had to be detained in the court pending their trial. However, these difficulties are gradually being overcome. The delays are no longer as prolonged as previously. Thanks to the reform in the penal code, the judicial system today operates to the satisfaction of the litigant as well as the



Administration.

Mr. SAMRE (United States): If some act were to be committed and this constitutes an offence under the customary indigenous law or practice but is not so defined by the Penal Code of France, would the defendant go free? In other words, do I understand that the indigenous courts cannot punish for offences against customary law if no such act has been made criminal in the French Penal Code? Do I make myself clear?

Mr. WATIER (Special Representative) (interpretation from French): I understand the question of the representative of the United States very well. In reality such conflicts of jurisdiction do not frequently arise because the French Penal Code is now applied everywhere, and indigenous tribunals at present only deal with civil cases and cases of personal status. If a crime is regarded as an offence by custom and not so covered by the French Code, then it enters into the category which I mentioned a while ago, that is, offences which the French Code could not cover because such offences derive essentially from African traditions. Then the French Government considered modifications and adjustments in the Penal Code so as to have crimes of that nature included unless, of course, one was able to figure out some category of offences already covered in the Code which might be said to cover such offence.

Mr. RYCKMANS (Belgium) (interpretation from French): The representative of the United States asked whether an offence qualified as an offence by custom but not considered an offence under the French Penal Code or by specific legislation is punishable, since the tribunals harbour no competence over penal matters and the French tribunals handle only the Penal Code and special legislation on the point. An offence which was an offence under custom but not under the Penal Code would not be punishable.

Mr. WATIER (Special Representative) (interpretation from French): That is quite correct. However, if such acts recur flagrantly, then it is up to the French Government to complete the Code so that penalties will be provided for such acts.

Mr. SUPHAMONGKHON (Thailand): In one of the replies made by the Special Representative to one of the questions put by the representative of the United States concerning population, am I correct in understanding that among these 12,000 Europeans a little more than 2,000 are Government officials?

Mr. WATIER (Special Representative) (interpretation from French): There are 2,290 Government officials.

Mr. SUPHAMONGKHON (Thailand): In that case I would like to enquire how the Special Representative harmonizes this figure with another part of the report which states that the number of the European staff in that Administration amounted to only 1,375 Europeans.

The PRESIDENT: What page is the representative of Thailand referring to?

Mr. SUPHAMONGKHON (Thailand): I am referring to the statistics.

Mr. WATIER (Special Representative) (interpretation from French): I said 2,290 Europeans were classified as officials. The statistics mentioned by the representative of Thailand refer to the officials who are part of the permanent categories. The others include the so-called assimilated officials, in other words, officials who do not have permanent posts in the civil service but who are nevertheless employed by the Government on a day to day basis or on a contractual basis. It may also be some other non-permanent or substitute basis. If you take the total of these people, you will find there are 2,290.

Mr. SUPHAMONGKHON (Thailand): I note from the report of the United Nations Visiting Mission to West Africa in 1949 that there exists a certain degree of anxiety among the local population with regard to the influx of foreigners into the Trust Territories.



The Administering Authority states that it did not encourage European immigration and that it is difficult to refuse entry to those who satisfy the conditions of entry into the territory. Page 43 of the report for the year 1950 refers to certain conditions as the conditions of entry. I should like the Special Representative to elaborate somewhat on the actual conditions of entry.

Mr. WATIER (Special Representative) (interpretation from French): Aliens seeking to immigrate into the territory must have a visa issued by the High Commissioner before they can enter the territory. This visa is granted provided certain conditions are fulfilled. First of all there are material conditions. The immigrant requesting entry into the territory must have a work contract or a labour contract or, failing this, must provide a sum which will cover possible repatriation costs in the event that repatriation is to be provided later. The immigrant must have some type of financial affidavit from a person living in the territory. The immigrant must also provide certain files concerning his past. It is then up to the High Commissioner to grant or refuse the right of entry depending upon the nature of that file. All of these are set conditions.

Mr. SUPHAMONGKHOL (Thailand): The report of the Visiting Mission states that some African representatives of the Representative Assembly in the Trust Territory expressed certain fears in regard to the immigration of Europeans, namely, that these people may come to the Cameroons to enrich themselves and to monopolize trade without putting any capital into the country. The report states: "to enrich themselves, to monopolize trade without putting any capital into the country and to take up posts which might quite well be filled by Cameroonians." Have any measures been adopted to prevent this from happening?

Mr. WATIER (Special Representative) (interpretation from French): First of all, I should like to ask the Representative of Thailand to clarify his point. Would it be the Representative Assembly that has asked such questions? I do not remember that the Representative Assembly has asked such questions.

Mr. SUPHAMONGKHOL (Thailand): No, I do not mean that the Representative Assembly has expressed such fears. According to the report of the Visiting Mission some members of the Representative Assembly have expressed certain fears with regard to immigration.

Mr. WATIER (Special Representative) (interpretation from French): The question was in fact raised by members not of the Representative Assembly but of some political parties in the Territory who submitted petitions to members of the Visiting Mission.

My statement a while ago about immigration into the Territory answers most of the objections included in those papers. If there is a considerable influx of Europeans into the Territory, it is due to the fact that the needs of the Territory justify such an influx. The immigrants do not have any benefits or privileges over the indigenous inhabitants. Legislation does not permit privilege based on race, or anything of that type. If Europeans come to the Territory in order to do certain jobs or to take certain posts, it is due to the fact that the Territory is unable to furnish personnel to fill those posts. It cannot be said that the arrival of Frenchmen, and Europeans in general, in the Territory should be construed as an eviction of the indigenous inhabitants or that it represents the pushing of indigenous inhabitants out of posts.

When specialized workers, engineers, and so on, come to the Territory they act as trainers, teachers and examples for the indigenous inhabitants in the Territory. This type of immigration helps the training of specialists and skilled workers who will subsequently be called upon to replace the Europeans who have come to the Territory on a temporary basis. The productivity of the indigenous worker is greater than it would have been if the Europeans had not arrived. The development of the Cameroons has been hastened by this influx of Europeans. This development, in turn, will create new needs; these new needs, in turn, will open new vistas of economic endeavour to the indigenous inhabitants who, in the meantime, will have been trained to take over the posts of skilled workers, officials, and so on.

It cannot be argued that the present influx of Europeans into the Territory is a danger to the development or advancement of the indigenous inhabitants. On the contrary, this influx encourages the advancement of the indigenous inhabitants in all ways.

Mr. SUPHAMONGKHOL (Thailand): Page 367 of the report for the year 1950 contains a table of minimum wage rates in the French Cameroons. I should like to know how these wage rates have been arrived at. I have read in the report that these figures have been drawn up using the costs of foodstuffs and certain consumer items in the Territory as the basis. However, I should like the

Special Representative to elaborate a bit on the process by which the Administering Authority has arrived at these figures.

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

Minimum wages are set by an ordinance of the High Commissioner pursuant to the advice given by labour departments. The employers and workers organizations concerned take part in the setting up of these minimum wage scales. The labour departments comprise representatives of the trade unions and employers organizations as well. The minimum subsistence wage is set up only after consultation with all those concerned.

Increasing efforts have been made to define the concept of the minimum wage as clearly as possible, despite the fact that it depends upon many changing factors. A searching study of the cost of living index in the various parts of the Territory underlies the minimum wage scale in the Territory. This is also true for the wage scales of the various professions. There is a general classification for the whole professional hierarchy, and this also was developed after consulting the trade unions and the employers organizations. The periodic consultation of the various labour departments makes it possible to set a minimum subsistence wage at a level which is always consistent with the current cost of living. Thus, the minimum wage is an equitable wage for the unskilled laborer.

I have always stressed another very important point in this question of wages. The establishment of the minimum wage does not refer to the real value of the income. The minimum subsistence wage is the minimum wage which an employer may pay to a wage earner. The real wage, however, depends upon the labour market and the play of supply and demand in the labour market. At present, the play of supply and demand favours the wage earner. There are many more requests for workers than there are applications for work. And, that being the case, the average wage is far above the minimum wage set by the regulations.

Therefore, the minimum wage only comes up in exceptional circumstances. It would come up, for example, when an enterprise is established away from city centres, where it is possible to recruit persons for whom the minimum wage is more adequate than the same wage would be in a city where the cost of living is much higher and there are many more opportunities to purchase commodities and spend wages.

Mr. BALLARD (Australia): I should like to refer to the section of the 1950 report which deals with the status of women, the raising of which, I believe, is one of the fundamental problems in the social development of the Trust Territories. In general, that section deals with the customary tendencies which hamper the raising of the status of women, and it makes what I believe to be the quite fair comment that reforms in this sphere cannot be brought about by highhanded action, but have to be accepted as a result of persuasion.

The report then goes on to mention one instance in which an attempt was made at persuasion. Apparently this attempt caused considerable feeling, not to say heat, on both sides. It is my thought that the Council might be assisted in arriving at a more concrete idea of the difficulties if we could be told what the controversy was, that is to say, what were the reforms which this movement aimed to introduce and what were the arguments which were advanced with some heat.

Mr. WATIER (Special Representative) (interpretation from French): The problem raised by the representative of Australia is one which has exercised the French Government constantly. And not only has it exercised the Government, but all persons interested in Africa, who have been concerned about the possibilities of development and the obstacles thereto. The status of women



cannot be raised so long as the mores of the people continue to regard women as objects of exchange and as chattels to be disposed of. A woman is not given in marriage to set up a new household; a woman is sold to another family and no links of relationship are thus set up. It is merely the link of the debtor to the creditor. Attempts have been made for a long period of time to improve the condition of women by means of dowry regulations, that is, by regulating the money to be given when a woman is sold for the purpose of marriage. This problem is not only a problem in the Cameroons; it is one which has plagued all of black Africa and even Moslem Africa.

We keep running into the interests of heads of families, who have young women of whom they wish to dispose for a consideration, and attempts to regulate the dowry have failed utterly.

Attempts have been made to persuade the Councils of Notables that it would be proper to make dowry customs more flexible. We have endeavoured to persuade the more advanced indigenous inhabitants that to treat their women as their ancestors did is silly, because it is better to use women as companions who will raise their own moral and economic standards. All these attempts have failed.

The Council of Notables of Mbam, under the influence of Senator Okala, a native of the region, decided to suppress the dowry altogether. That was, of course, a radical measure. Subsequently, various transitional measures were contemplated, and there was an idea about fixing the maximum dowry. But all these measures remained entirely ineffective, and the Africans continue to demand the dowry as before and to keep the prospective sons-in-law in protracted periods of virtual slavery.

Administrative action and missionary action have been contemplated to induce the indigenous inhabitants to change their customs so that girls would no longer be sold but would get some sort of allowance which would help in setting up a household. This would reverse the custom, but it would not cause financial victimization. Here again, we have had no success. However, it must be noted that the women themselves have caused the failure of this attempt to modify the mores. Whenever difficulties arose in the household, the women told their husbands that, after all, the husbands had not bought them and had no rights over them, that the money was theirs. The reasoning was that, since the woman had not been bought, the marriage was not to be considered as a truly cemented and consecrated one. The very payment of the dowry has greater power

than the plighting of anybody's troth.

It would appear that a lengthy educational and propaganda effort alone will succeed in changing such deep-rooted mores, which are the more deep rooted as they are rooted in the money bags in the Cameroonians concerned.

Mr. HENRIQUEZ-URENA (Dominican Republic) (interpretation from Spanish): The question which the representative of Australia asked was one which I was about to put. However, I should like to ask the Special Representative to give some additional explanation in regard to the status of women. We find that the French Constitution applies to the Trust Territory, and the preamble of that Constitution proclaims complete equality for men and women in all fields. If that is the case, I should like to know how this basic principle of the preamble of the French Constitution has been adjusted to or harmonized with the customs and mores of these backward peoples.



Of course, it is possible to have the French penal code applied to the Territory, but the civil code cannot be so extended since it is derived from the customs and mores in general. Most civil cases are settled by tradition rather than by means of the written laws or codes. Therefore, I should like to know whether the women in the Cameroons have been able to enjoy the equality of rights granted to them by the French Constitution or whether it has not been possible for any woman to enjoy such equality of rights, even if she came forward to claim such equal treatment.

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

The representative of the Dominican Republic was quite right in pointing out what are the declarations of principles and how they may differ from reality when custom and civil status in the Cameroons are involved. It is true that the French Constitution proclaims equality of rights without distinction as to sex, and it is true that the women in the Cameroons have the right to demand complete personal freedom and emancipation, but they have not done so. The women are still under the stamp of tradition and custom, so much so that the idea of asking for emancipation has not even entered their minds. That is why the Administering Authority has deemed it fitting to maintain in the jurisdiction of the indigenous tribunal all questions with regard to personal status which have been derived from customary law.

As I have said, only a gradual improvement in educational standards and only a gradual adjustment of mores to Christianity can enable the women of the Cameroons themselves to grasp the idea that their present status is one which debases them. Associations for the emancipation of women have arisen in the more advanced regions of the Territory. In Douala and Edea there are societies for the freedom of Cameroonian women. I am not entirely sure that the women who are members of these societies themselves have grasped very clearly what it is they ask when they demand equal rights with men. I think that they view the problem mostly from the political point of view. That is where they demand the freedom which the law has granted to them, but which custom and tradition has refused to them, and still continues to refuse to them.

The social work which is being done in Douala, where miserable conditions exist in some sections, has served to emancipate women from the customary ties that have shackled them. This social work has borne fruit to the extent that Cameroonian girls, instead of plunging headlong into marriage, have decided to devote their lives to the improvement of the status of their Cameroonian sisters. Some Cameroonian women have embraced religious careers and have become sisters and nuns and devoted their entire life to the improvement of the status of their sisters.

I believe that once mores have evolved which make it possible for Cameroonian women to be placed by legislative provisions on the same level as Cameroonian men, the time will also have arrived to reform the civil code. We shall then unify the civil code, as we have already succeeded in unifying the penal code of the Territory with that of the metropolitan country.

Mr. SOLDATOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): In order to make the transition easier, and since the condition of women has been dealt with, I shall begin my questions with questions regarding the status of women. First of all, I should like to ask the Special Representative how many indigenous women are at present members of the so-called Representative Assembly.

Mr. WATIER (Special Representative) (interpretation from French): At present there are no women members of the Representative Assembly. In the elections to the Assembly, there was one woman candidate, but, however, she was not elected and at the present time there are only men in the Representative Assembly.

Mr. SOLDATOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): How many indigenous women participated in the elections to the so-called Representative Assembly?

Mr. WATIER (Special Representative) (interpretation from French): It is very difficult to provide this information for the representative of the Soviet Union, since the electoral statistics do not separate the voters on the basis of sex or on the basis of their individual names. All that can be mentioned

is the number of women appearing on the electoral registers. So far, that number is very small since very few women in the Cameroons registered as voters prior to 1946. However, when the elections for the Representative Assembly took place, this was the case, but since the reform of 1951, a far larger number of women have registered, since mothers of two or more children are automatically registered as voters.

Mr. SOLDATOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): In other words, the Special Representative does not have the figures showing the number of indigenous women who have the right to vote or who have voted.

Mr. WATIER (Special Representative) (interpretation from French): I feel sure that this figure can be provided, but I do not have it at hand at present. I should have to ask the Administration in the Cameroons for such figures. I may add that, according to the 1946 decree, there were fourteen categories of qualifications for voters, and, by one or another of these categories, a certain number of women would be placed on the register. Therefore women were not necessarily excluded from voting, though I cannot off-hand produce the figures required.

Mr. SOLDATOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): My next question refers to the hospital in Douala. There has been some mention of this establishment, and the Special Representative, if I understood him correctly, told us that indigenous inhabitants can avail themselves of the services of the European hospital in Douala if they have the wherewithal with which to pay the fees. I should like to know how many indigenous inhabitants, Africans, thus avail themselves of the services of the European hospital at Douala during the past two years.

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

I can quite understand that the representative of the Soviet Union is curious as to this, but I must say, however, that I did not expect this question and I do not have the figures with which to reply to it. However, the figures can quite easily be obtained by consultation with the Administration of the Cameroons.

Mr. SOLDATOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): I would indeed be very thankful to the Special Representative for such information. Likewise, I trust that the Special Representative will soon be in a position, in connexion with some questions that were asked at past meetings, to supply the information which he promised to obtain with respect to the chapters on political and economic advancement.

My next question relates to the report for 1949, page 32, which says that in Douala and Yaounde cities, there are a number of persons without discernible means of subsistence. I should like to know what the reasons<sup>are</sup> for that situation and what measures have been taken by the Administering Authority to help them settle in some job or to assist them in other ways.

Mr. WATIER (Special Representative) (interpretation from French): It is true that in the large urban centres or in the large cities there are a certain number of indigenous inhabitants who have settled in these cities. They are usually invited to do so by their relatives who are themselves wage-earners, and the deeply rooted traditions of African hospitality compel the relatives to keep these persons with them and not to send them back. In this way there does exist a number of persons who do not have any obvious means of subsistence. It is from these groups that many of the offenders and criminals come. This is, of course, a breeding ground for conflict and difficulties.

The Administration has tried to set up a system to revise this situation and it has provided for a census of the indigenous inhabitants who have means of subsistence by asking them to carry an identification card. In this way it is possible to find out exactly what natives have means of subsistence and to send back home those parasites who are living with their relatives in the cities. However, this is only a first step. The only real remedy for this state of affairs is to have the co-operation of the indigenous inhabitants, so that these parasites may be turned in and not encumber the cities, as happens at times when police supervision becomes lax.

Mr. SOLDATOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): If I understood the Special Representative correctly, all these persons are actually supported by indigenous families, or are there some who are mere vagrants and who do not reside with any particular family or with their relatives but who just wander around and find shelter anywhere?



Mr. WATIER (Special Representative) (interpretation from French): As I said a moment ago, there is a tradition of hospitality in the Territory. No African will leave one of his brothers outside. Even if his house is already crowded, he will provide him with a roof over his head for the night and some food; so that these vagrants, although they do not have any regular means of subsistence, do have a place to stay, at least most of the time.

Mr. SOLDATOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): My next question again applies to the report for 1949, pages 175 and 177, where we read that experts who have studied the nourishment standards of the Africans have concluded that there is under-nourishment, which is permanent in some cities and seasonal in certain rural places. There is malnutrition among students in schools. I wonder what the Administering Authority has done to extend assistance to the indigenous inhabitants who have inadequate means of support, or who have no means of support and who find themselves starving, on a permanent basis in the cities and seasonal in the rural areas.

Mr. WATIER (Special Representative) (interpretation from French): First of all, I should like to point out that this comment on under-nourishment or malnutrition is a point which was noted in the Inter-African Conference on Nutrition which took place in Dschang in 1949, and these conclusions apply in general to Africa as a whole and not more exclusively to the Cameroons. Actually there is malnutrition in rural areas and more particularly in urban centres. This is due primarily to faulty distribution of foodstuffs rather than to any lack of an adequate supply of foodstuffs in the Territory as a whole. In general, the native diet was unbalanced. There were not sufficient proteins. This faulty diet was harmful to the health of the natives.

We have sought to combat this in the Cameroons, and proteins and meat <sup>from</sup> the north have been distributed in the south of the Cameroons. The meat diet in the Cameroons today is very widespread, thus overcoming this defect in the diet of the indigenous inhabitant. If there <sup>been</sup> have difficulties in the cities in providing the population with adequate foodstuffs, the Administration has, for the past three years, sought to meet these difficulties by setting up certain commissaries which receive produce from the directly neighbouring areas, and by providing special freight rates applying to foodstuffs transported over roadways and railroads. The Administration has also exempted foodstuffs from certain taxation,

particularly for the crossing of rivers, waterways, etc. In other words, the Administration is endeavouring to provide the principal cities of the Territory with a large supply of foodstuffs. This of course means Douala and, to a lesser degree, Yaounde.

Mr. SOLDATOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): The report for 1949, on page 128, discusses the high mortality in the Foulbe tribe in the north of the Territory. The Administering Authority explains that by commenting on the lack of care for babies. It speaks of bronchitis and similar things. Out of eight children that are given birth to by a woman, no more than four survive on the average. What measures have been taken by the Administering Authority to supply pre-natal and post-natal care, and to supply proper medical service to these northern regions?



Mr. WATIER (Special Representative) (interpretation from French): The medical services are very well organized in the north of the Cameroons. What prevents these services from being provided for the mass of the population is the fact that in that section the population is still rather savage. It has sought refuge in remote mountains where it can be contacted only with difficulty. Our impact, therefore, on this population has been very superficial in nature.

For the past three years in particular, however, the Administering Authority has concentrated on the northern regions, particularly in the field of education. We feel that it is by approaching the Kirdi and the pagan populations of the north Cameroons in the field of education that we will make it possible for the masses of these people to have better hygienic and living conditions. Public health and preventive medical action can take place by means of periodic vaccination programmes as is already done. Nonetheless, to reduce the infant mortality rate, it is necessary to have a long-range programme with respect to health propaganda. This can be done only by encouraging and developing educational facilities in these regions.

Mr. SOLDATOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): The next question applies to wage rates. Page 138 of the report of the Administering Authority for 1949 states that in the last few years, the standard of living of the indigenous population has gone up considerably. At the same time, there is also evidence to the contrary. For example, the report of the Administering Authority on page 138 states that the annual expenditures of a single worker, if we base ourselves on the obviously inadequate diet given in the report and on the more than modest requirements attributed to the worker, would be 6,621 francs. This is the minimum expenditure. Page 139 states that the average salary of a worker amounts to 22 to 25 francs daily, which is said to be equivalent to 6,600 to 7,500 francs per year.

It is evident that if this wage rate is so and if the minimum expenditures of a worker are 6,621 francs annually, then it is impossible for a worker who is the head of a family to subsist on his pay. If we translate 6,600 to 7,500 francs into American terms, it would amount to 36 to 41 dollars per annum. In other words, the annual salary of such a wage-earner is 36 to 41 dollars per annum while his minimum expenditures if he is single, although the diet that

is contemplated is entirely inadequate and the requirements are represented as being more than modest, would also be approximately 36 to 41 dollars per annum. That is for a single worker. Suppose the worker has a family. It is customary for persons to live with their families, to have wives and children who presumably should be supported, fed and sheltered. What measures has the Administering Authority taken? Legislatively speaking, what measures does it anticipate taking in order to ensure an adequate wage scale for indigenous workers or is nothing being done in that respect?

Mr. WATLER (Special Representative) (interpretation from French): The example mentioned by the representative of the Soviet Union is one which was chosen to show that it is possible for a single man to live a perfectly decent mode of life on a wage which seems to be very low if it is translated into dollars as will be shown from the break-down of expenditures appearing on page 138. It is pointed out that labourers work only in the morning. At 1 p.m. they are free for the rest of the afternoon and can work on their own. When a labourer is married, his wife and children usually till the soil. Thus the family is provided with its own source of foodstuffs.

On the other hand, the labourer who is married and has a family has certain family allowances paid to him which are added to his wage. These will be provided for in the labour code to be published subsequently in the Cameroons. They already obtain in most of the enterprises employing labour in the Cameroons. The lot of the labourer, therefore, even the one receiving the minimum wage, is not as unfortunate as could be inferred from the comparison on pages 138 and 139 of the report.

Mr. SOLDATOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): The answer of the Special Representative of course cannot satisfy not only the delegation of the Soviet Union but other delegations particularly since he does not disavow the official data supplied in the report which bespeak the most wretched lot of the indigenous labourers and in view of the fact that the Administering Authority has not taken and does not anticipate taking any measures to improve their lot. This proves that the Administering Authority simply fails to abide by the provisions of the Charter which set forth

the objectives of the International Trusteeship System.

I have no further questions on this chapter.

Mr. WATIER (Special Representative) (interpretation from French): The status of the labourer to which the representative of the USSR called attention does not prove in any way that the lot of the Cameroonian worker is a wretched one, as the Soviet Union representative contends. I do not see how the French Government can have the allegation made against it that it failed to discharge its duties under the Charter since a labourer in a year obtains a wage which makes it possible for him to live a decent life and to meet all his basic needs.

The representative of the Soviet Union accuses the French Government of doing nothing and of contemplating no new measures to improve the lot of the worker. I must take vigorous objection to such assertions. The report repeatedly points out the efforts made by the French Government to improve the lot of the worker. Commissaries have been set up throughout the Territory. Co-operatives subsidized by the State have also been established to provide a cheap source of foodstuffs for the workers in densely populated cities. Other stores have also been set up. These are designed to provide goods at a low price to the indigenous inhabitants. All these measures contribute to the improvement of the lot of the worker.

I should like to return to the question raised yesterday by the representative of the USSR in connexion with a table in the 1950 report which pointed to a substantial increase in indigenous importations in comparison with previous years. We have seen that the importation of foodstuffs for the indigenous inhabitants increased by four times over the pre-war figure and if the lot of the Cameroonians had not shown a marked improvement, those Cameroonians would not be in a position today to import four times what they imported in 1933.

Mr. SOLDATOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): Inasmuch as the Special Representative has chosen to continue our exchange of views on this matter, I would ask him whether he would be kind enough to vouchsafe an explanation on the following point. I said that inasmuch as the wages of the African workers are so miserable, being 22 to 25 francs per day, the workers cannot support themselves and their families and if they try to support themselves and their families on that wage, they are doomed to malnutrition and starvation.

The Special Representative questioned that point. If he wishes to continue to question that point, I would request him to account for the fact mentioned in the Visiting Mission's report on page 68 which says that even the sum of 60 francs more than two and a half times the daily wage of the worker, "would not cover the cost of a decent meal for a man in the poorest native restaurant". They do not speak of just any restaurant but of an indigenous restaurant and not a luxurious meal but an ordinary, simple meal. And the Special Representative would have us believe that they can live decently and satisfactorily on such wretched wage scale.

The PRESIDENT: As there are no other questions on social advancement, we shall begin the questions on educational advancement.

Mr. SUPHAMONGKHON (Thailand): I have just one question to ask of the Special Representative. I found it stated in the report that primary education has been made free in all of the Territory. I wonder if the Administering Authority could not go a little bit ahead in making primary education compulsory throughout the Territory.



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

Compulsory education is of course the target at which the Administering Authority is aiming. However, in order to provide education on a compulsory basis it is necessary for all students in the Cameroons to have similar educational opportunities and facilities open to them. In certain regions of the Territory, the school population is sufficiently extensive so as to make it possible to have compulsory education. It is not possible, however, to do this with the Territory as a whole at the present time. The school population at present numbers approximately 130,000 whereas the actual number of potential students would amount to approximately 360,000 to 400,000, so that the school facilities can provide for only approximately one-third of the potential school population. We are trying, first of all, to provide a sufficient number of schools so that all school-age children will be able to attend school.

Mr. SAYRE (United States of America): I notice on page 240 of the 1950 report where the question of normal schools is dealt with, a matter of very great importance, that the Administering Authority agrees that the number of normal schools or teachers colleges in the Territory is insufficient. It then speaks of the normal schools at Nkongsamba which is in process of construction, as I understand it. I wonder whether the Special Representative would be good enough to tell us when the Administering Authority plans to open this normal school so that it will be functioning and turning out trained teachers.

Mr. WATIER (Special Representative) (interpretation from French): The normal school at Nkongsamba has been completed. In 1950 the first class of students of that normal school was admitted and commenced its studies in Nkongsamba; the school is now functioning fully.

Mr. SAYRE (United States of America): Might I ask the number of pupils this school is turning out? I take it that those are not included in the statistical table which appears on page 240.



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

The number of students in the normal school does not seem to be given separately in this table, and I am afraid that I am not in a position to supply the figure off-hand; I do not have the present figure of the number of students at the normal school.

Mr. SAYRE (United States of America): May I then turn to the question of the establishment of a university college within the Cameroons, as was recommended by the Trusteeship Council Committee on Higher Education. I believe that in the 1950 report the Administering Authority comments that it does not appear opportune at this time to establish a university as the financial effort would be out of proportion to the number of possible students and that the problem of the university can be advantageously considered only when secondary education will have attained its full development. One can quite understand that point of view. I wonder if the Special Representative would be able to tell us when the Administering Authority expects to have its system of secondary education developed to a point when it will be profitable and wise and desirable to build a university in the Cameroons.

Mr. WATIER (Special Representative) (interpretation from French): It is difficult to say in advance how many students there should be before a university should be set up to provide for those coming from secondary schools. It is interesting to note, however, that the secondary school training in the Territory caters for 1,120 students at the present time. It is contemplated that secondary schooling will develop to such an extent that, according to our figures, we shall shortly have 1,120 students in Yaounde, 550 at the college of Nkong-Samba, 200 at the college of Garowa, <sup>and</sup> 250 at the women's college and 420 at the men's college in Douala. In other words, by 1957 secondary schooling will have been provided for a total of 2,540 Cameroonians, which is tantamount to an increase of approximately 225 to 250 students who will obtain baccalaureat degrees every year. At that time, it seems to me, it is possible that the situation will be such as to justify the provision of higher education in the Cameroons.

Mr. SAYRE (United States of America): Am I correct in understanding that the expectation is that by 1957 there will be 2,500 students ready for university education of whom, presumably, a certain number will be desirous of continuing their education by going to a university? If I am in fact correct in understanding that by 1957 the time will be ripe for giving university training I presume that, some time in advance, plans will have to be made for building and organizing a university, and 1957 is not, after all, too far distant. Is my understanding of the Special Representative's observations correct?

Mr. WATIER (Special Representative) (interpretation from French): Those responsible for education in the Territory are, as a matter of fact, at present studying plans for the establishment of higher education centres. Plans are being drawn up now for the establishment of a university in the Territory.

Mr. SAYRE (United States of America): I have one last question. What is the present policy of the Administration with regard to the establishment and operation of schools by religious missionary societies?

Mr. WATIER (Special Representative) (interpretation from French): The educational situation in the Cameroons shows how important the role of the missions is. Of 130,000 pupils in the Territory more than 100,000 are attending mission schools. The Government supports this work of the missions very energetically by granting subsidies and by exercising official supervision over the schools. The Private Education Ordinance of 1949 classes the private schools in two categories. On the one hand there are the "declared schools" and on the other the "recognized schools". The "declared schools" provide free schooling and the directors are in complete charge of the curricula. In the other schools, however, the directors accept the control and supervision of government inspectors in relation to the maintenance of standards. Their curricula are adjusted to conform with those of the State schools, so that curricula are uniform both in public schools and in private registered schools. It is these "recognized schools" alone which receive <sup>actual</sup> Government subsidies. The present policy of the Government is to continue granting these subsidies so as to foster the speedy development of education in the Territory. The missions have contributed valuable and valiant efforts towards this development. It is only in assimilating the salaries of native teachers in the two types of school that the Government ensures that standards shall be equalized as far as possible.

The meeting was suspended at 4 p.m. and resumed at 4:25 p.m.

The PRESIDENT: We shall continue with the consideration of the report of the Cameroons under French Administration, and proceed with questions on educational advancement.

Mr. Shih-shun LIU (China): Referring again to the table on page 238 of the 1950 report, I notice that in the preparatory courses girl students increased from 2,942 in 1949 to 3,606 in 1950. In the elementary courses the number of girls decreased from 882 in 1949 to only 800 in 1950. I wonder if the Special Representative could give us an explanation of this decrease of girl students in the elementary schools.

Mr. WATIER (Special Representative) (interpretation from French): The elementary course in 1950 was affected by the reform introduced in 1949, which was designed to expel from the schools over-aged and otherwise undesirable elements. Consequently, the preparatory course of 1948, which became the so-called elementary course of 1950, brought about a diminution of the school population. This is purely temporary and is due to the reorganization of the school which took place in 1948-1949. In the next few years there will be a considerable increase in the number of girl students in those courses because the preparatory course is growing apace, as may be noted from the report.

Mr. RYCKMANS (Belgium) (interpretation from French): On page 246 of the 1950 report data is supplied with respect to primary education. Reference is made to an African monitor having a diploma of a certain type. Paragraph (d) states that you have assistant African monitors possessing a special diploma. Paragraph (e) states that you have auxiliary monitors who are recruited on the basis of a spécial test or examination. At the bottom of the page reference is made to the D. M. I., the diploma for indigenous monitors. I should like to know exactly what is meant by this degree or diploma and in what schools or educational institutions can this diploma be obtained.

Mr. WATIER (Special Representative) (interpretation from French): The diploma for indigenous monitors was created to allow a rapid increase in the number of African teachers. If they were all to have full qualifications, they would have to have a bachelor's degree and teacher's certificate. Our attempt to increase and foster education required a rapid increase in the number of teachers. There is a so-called normal course given in every college in the Territory. Students may be permitted by competitive examination to take this normal course which lasts one or two years. Thereafter they receive the diploma of indigenous monitor, D. M. I., which attests to a certain level of proficiency.

Mr. RYCKMANS (Belgium) (interpretation from French): If I understand the Special Representative correctly, the regular teachers in primary schools do not hold the baccalaureate. There is no particular training for teaching in France, and therefore the normal schooling would apply to those who have not undergone this sort of schooling. What is meant here is a sort of training for the post of teacher; but I take it that the regular teachers are all holders of baccalaureates.

Mr. WATIER (Special Representative) (interpretation from French): The ordinary teachers are persons who, after obtaining their baccalaureate, continue for an additional year at a teachers' school, while the D. M. I.'s do not have such diplomas. They cannot become school directors nor are they qualified to give instruction in the secondary moyen courses.



Mr. RYCKMANS (Belgium) (interpretation from French): Are there teaching courses in private schools or is this training only provided in public educational institutions?

Mr. WATIER (Special Representative) (interpretation from French): There are private normal schools which give pedagogical training which is divided, depending on whether it is given to a person who has only the certificat d'étude or to a person who has the brevet élémentaire which is higher. There are four private normal schools in the Territory.

Mr. RYCKMANS (Belgium) (interpretation from French): Following the question put in this connexion by the representative of the United States, it seems to me that other members of the Council as well as myself would find it of interest if the report for next year could provide complete information with regard to this educational matter, that is, the number of students obtaining degrees in these schools etc.

Mr. WATIER (Special Representative) (interpretation from French): I am taking note of the wish expressed by the representative of Belgium which indeed raises a matter of interest to all members of the Council.

Mr. HENRIQUEZ UREMA (Dominican Republic) (interpretation from Spanish): I have been very gratified to note that the Administering Authority has undertaken a large-scale campaign against illiteracy and that special courses for this purpose are made available to adults. These courses are to eradicate illiteracy, not only among school-age children, but also among the adult population. I should like to know whether there are any statistics showing the proportion of illiteracy in the Territory.

Mr. WATIER (Special Representative) (interpretation from French): Accurate illiteracy statistics have not been drawn up. On the other hand, when electoral lists were drawn up and they were to comprise all literate indigenous inhabitants, a way had to be found to ascertain whether the indigenous inhabitant met the qualifications. We established the fact that 100,000 indigenous persons in the Territory were capable of reading and, therefore,

were qualified to vote. This figure does not give the full educational picture in the Territory because it only applies to indigenous inhabitants who are 21 years of age or more. More or less accurate figures can be computed on the basis of the number of students in schools. There are now 130,000 pupils in schools. This is more than one-third of the potential school population or 40 per cent of the potential school population. As this proportion has been maintained for a number of years already, one may look forward to a time not too far removed when everybody in the Territory will be capable of reading.

Mr. DUSSAUT (Argentina)(interpretation from French): I wonder whether the Special Representative might provide me with some clarification in connexion with the resolution of the Trusteeship Council which recommends that the social advancement of women should be obtained by means of a general spreading of education. If we refer to the reports for 1949 and 1950, we will find that in private schools the increase in the number of students amounted to 10,000. Of these 10,000 students 3,500 were women. In state public schools there was an increase between 1949 and 1950 of 5,300 students of which only 700 were women. Therefore, we see that in private schools the increase amounts to virtually 30 per cent and in state or public schools the increase amounts to only 10 or 15 per cent. There is a recommendation of the Trusteeship Council to the effect that the social advancement of women should be obtained by means of widely disseminated education and complete access of women to educational facilities.

Mr. WATIER (Special Representative)(interpretation from French): The Government is making every effort to induce indigenous inhabitants to send their daughters to school. It had even decided to set up mixed classes before special schools for girls were set up. I am referring to co-educational classes. Co-education has been held in some quarters to discourage the attendance of girls in schools. If the increase in the number of girl students participating in private education has been greater than in public education, the reason is that this private education is more religious than instructional and is not purely instructional in character.

The indigenous inhabitants are much less reluctant to send their girls to mission schools than to public schools inasmuch as in the public schools their education is technical rather than religious in character. In public schools the accent is placed less on morals and ethics than in mission schools. The situation which prevails may be regarded as gratifying as it is indeed desirable to raise the moral standard of girls before their intellectual standard is raised. The latter may be regarded as a secondary stage in the education of girls, which can be subsequently attained. In the meantime, it might be desirable for them to attend mission schools rather than public schools.

Mr. DUSAUT (Argentina) (interpretation from French): I have no further questions, but I might suggest that perhaps we could recommend that the Administering Authority make the State schools for women more attractive to families and to young girls in order that the discrepancy between the school attendance of boys and girls will not be as marked. This is only a suggestion.

Mr. SOLDATOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): The question of literacy among the population has already been mentioned by some of my colleagues. In this connexion I should like to learn from the Special Representative whether he can tell us, even approximately, what is the literacy percentage in the age groups below the age of 21. The Special Representative stated that among the people who are 21 years of age or older there are 100,000 literate indigenous inhabitants. How many literate persons are there in the age groups of people who have completed school but who are not yet 21 years of age, in other words, adolescent and above?

Can the Special Representative also indicate to what extent the literacy rate has increased since the establishment of the Trusteeship Agreement for the Cameroons?

Mr. WATIER (Special Representative) (interpretation from French): I must confess that I do not quite see how this question is of any interest. The educational work of the French Government in the Cameroons has constantly moved forward since the time France undertook to act as trustee for this Territory. To state exactly the proportion of literate persons between the ages of 14 and 21 would be arduous indeed, since it would be necessary to count the number of students who went to school for the past eight or nine years. By adding the number of student

who left school during the past seven years, it would be possible to know the exact number of literate persons in the Territory. However, I cannot give such figures off-hand.

To obtain an idea of the rapid increase in the number of students in the Cameroons, I would refer the Representative of the Soviet Union to the tables on pages 395, 396 and 397 of the report. These tables show quite clearly the rate at which both private and public education have increased, and the rate at which the number of students in the schools has increased. If we consider the tempo of the increase shown in these tables, it may be possible to conclude that in the near future all children in the Cameroons will have access to educational facilities.

Mr. SOLDATOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): For my part, I must express surprise at the surprise expressed by the Special Representative concerning the interest displayed by the Soviet Union Representative at the increase in the literacy rate since the establishment of the Trusteeship System. It would appear to us that no surprise should be called for. The Administering Authority has assumed a certain set of obligations pursuant to the Trusteeship Agreement. These obligations include the fulfilment of the requirements of the Charter in fostering the advancement of the population in the field of education. Consequently, the Soviet Union delegation wished to express interest in the concrete manner in which these requirements of the Charter of the United Nations are being implemented. I think, therefore, that no particular surprise is called for at the tenor of the question. I do regret that the Administering Authority does not have available accurate data concerning the number of literate persons -- if not literate persons, at least persons who have completed schooling in the Trust Territory.

My next question concerns page 188 of the report for the year 1949, which states that instruction in the school is given in the French language. I should like to know whether the Administering Authority contemplates the introduction of instruction in the indigenous language?

Mr. WATIER (Special Representative) (interpretation from French): First I should like to comment on the observations of the Representative of the Soviet Union. When I expressed surprise at the curiosity he displayed in connexion with



the period since the Trusteeship Council has come into existence, it was because the duty to provide education was assumed by France the very day upon which it agreed to act as trustee for the Cameroons. This is true not only for the Cameroons but also for all the other African territories under French supervision. This was a moral obligation for France, and France did not wait to sign the San Francisco Charter to assume this moral obligation. That is why I stated that the progress achieved in this field in the Cameroons must, of course, be considered as depending to some extent upon the Trusteeship Council, but its success also depends upon the fact that France has always considered the providing of education to be a basic moral duty and obligation in all the backward countries for which France has assumed the duty of administrator.

The second question raised by the Representative of the Soviet Union was considered at length in connexion with the reports for 1947 and 1948. I fail to see what new factors I could now bring up with regard to this matter.

There is no dominant vernacular language in the Territory. Idioms are very numerous. Furthermore, there is deeply entrenched rivalry among the people concerning the various dialects. That being the case, there is not much point in teaching in one or another of the vernacular languages. If this were done many difficulties would arise. It would be necessary to teach in a large number of languages in the various schools. Also, it would be necessary to train the teachers in all the various dialects or local languages.

I have already emphasized the fact that the Cameroonian was interested in learning a language which would bring with it the benefits of a broader civilization. The natives themselves have clearly grasped that this is to their advantage. As a matter of fact, when there was some question of experimenting in teaching in the vernacular in certain nursery schools, the indigenous inhabitants protested vehemently and claimed that they did not send their children to school to learn a language with which they were already acquainted, but sent them to school to learn French so that they might learn something which was not available to them at home.



Mr. SOLDATOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): What measures have been taken by the Administering Authority to develop the languages and the national cultures of the indigenous population of the Trust Territory?

Mr. WATIER (Special Representative) (interpretation from French): In a territory such as the Cameroons, it is rather difficult to speak in terms of a national language. I have mentioned the fact that there are approximately 180 dialects spoken in the Territory. Some of these dialects are similar to others, but many differ widely and do not resemble one another at all. Therefore it is difficult to speak in terms of a national language or a national culture. A national language and a national culture derive from a community of interests, common historical traditions or a given historical evolution. This has been present in the Cameroons only since the French Administration has made the people of the Cameroons conscious of the fact that the Cameroons is a unit. The Cameroonian nationality, with its concomitant national culture and common ethnic background, will exist only when the Cameroonians have moved forward and have developed as an entity. It is probable that, at this later stage, it may prove of interest to stress the languages and cultures of the various nations or tribes comprising the Cameroons. It seems to me that the various national cultures will be highlighted at that time inasmuch as the Cameroonians, through the acquisition of French culture, will know how to become acquainted<sup>with</sup> to describe and to depict these national cultural resources.

Mr. SOLDATOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): Are there any books published in the languages of the indigenous population? If so, how many of such books are printed and what is the circulation of such newspapers as may be published in those languages?

Mr. WATIER (Special Representative) (interpretation from French): Heretofore no books have been published in the vernacular except prayer books and translations of the Bible.

There are no indigenous newspapers except the newspapers published by the Missions which are parochial bulletins rather than newspapers. I do not know the exact circulation of these bulletins, but I do not believe it is very large. In any event, these bulletins do not reflect the national culture of the Cameroons.

Mr. SOLDATOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): In other words, the Administering Authority has taken no measures to develop the languages of the indigenous population nor to develop the culture of the indigenous inhabitants of the Trust Territory. All that is being left for the time when all the indigenous inhabitants will be able to speak French.

Mr. WATIER (Special Representative) (interpretation from French): I can only reply in the affirmative to the question put by the representative of the Soviet Union.

Mr. SOLDATOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): To that, I can only say one thing: it is not correct.

My next question is in regard to the training of African teachers for the secondary schools. I wonder how many African teachers there are now in the secondary schools and what are the facilities for training such teachers in the Territory.

Mr. WATIER (Special Representative) (interpretation from French): Of the 108 teachers in the secondary schools, two are at present natives of the Cameroons. This figures may seem infinitesimal, but it will not seem so small if we bear in mind the fact that secondary schools have only been set up recently in the Territory. It is necessary for a few years to elapse before teachers can be trained to teach in the secondary schools. The number will, of course, increase to the extent that Cameroonian students holding scholarships for training in France, and there are 280-odd such students, will soon be qualified to teach in the Cameroons.

Mr. SOLDATOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): I am interested in what is being done for the training of secondary teachers in the Territory itself.

Mr. WATIER (Special Representative) (interpretation from French): In the Territory itself, the indigenous students go through primary school, then

Mr. DUSSAUT (Argentina) (interpretation from French): The Special Representative has just spoken of the scholarship holders at present studying in France. Are these scholarship holders compelled to return to the Cameroons when they have completed their studies, or can they accept work elsewhere?

Mr. WATIER (Special Representative) (interpretation from French): The question asked by the representative of Argentina is an important one indeed. It would be normal for students whose expenses have been assumed entirely by the Cameroons to devote their subsequent active lives to the Territory that has educated them. But so that the departure of such students for France should not be discouraged, no such undertaking has thus far been exacted. They usually come back to the Territory because a living is assured them there. However, if they wish to remain in France or to proceed to some other part of the world, nothing prevents them from doing so. Now that the number of scholarship holders is assuming substantial proportions, it is contemplated that the scholars should sign a ten-year undertaking. These pledges would require them to devote ten years of activity to the Territory, after having been trained under scholarships.

The PRESIDENT: As there are no further questions on educational advancement, we have come to the end of the questions on the Cameroons under French Administration. I propose that this discussion should now be interrupted so that we may take up the second item on our agenda.

Mr. Watier, Special Representative for the Cameroons under French Administration, withdrew.

SOMALILAND UNDER ITALIAN ADMINISTRATION, APRIL 1950-DECEMBER 1950 (T/L.170, 170/Corr. 1, 184, 189, 193, 193/Add.1 [4(a)])

At the invitation of the President, Mr. de Holte-Castello, representative of Colombia, and Mr. Carpio, representative of the Philippines, took places at the Council table, as members of the United Nations Advisory Council for Somaliland.

The PRESIDENT: The documents before the Council are T/L.193 and T/L.193/Add.1. We shall first consider document T/L.193, which contains a summary of the observations made by individual members of the Council during the general discussion and the comments of the Special Representative.

Mr. GUIDOTTI (Italy): If I may, I should like to submit to the Trusteeship Council an amendment and an insertion. As to the amendment, I refer to document T/L.193/Add.1. The last sentences of this document read: "It was because of this that production had dropped. As to the increase of exports, he thought that this was a type of prosperity. In addition to this increase in exports there was an even greater increase in imports."

This is the English translation of the statement made by the Special Representative for Somaliland under Italian Administration, and I think that in the translation there was a slight inaccuracy. I suggest that instead of saying that this was a "type of prosperity" it should read "an asset to the economy of the Territory". I think that the exact words of the Special Representative were "uno aspetto di ricchezza".

If I may, I should like to deal with the insertion which, if the Council approves, should be made in document T/L.193. The sentence which I am going to read should be inserted between paragraphs 21 and 22 of the document, under the heading of "Territorial Council". I should like the following words by the Special Representative inserted:

"The Special Representative, referring to page 42 of the annual report dealing with the composition of the Territorial Council, recalled that all the major parties actually participated in the work of that body. All the representatives of these parties had co-operated in the two sessions held in January and April 1951. It was also provided that in the intervals between sessions there should be a reduced committee which should sit permanently. It is an interim committee of ten persons, including two persons of the Somali Youth League."

That statement refers to the answer given by the Special Representative which is to be found on page 13-15 of T/PV.349.

THE PRESIDENT: Are the proposals of the Italian representative acceptable to the Council? If so, we shall now turn to document T/L.193, which contains a summary of the observations made by individual members. I shall ask the Council if this paper is acceptable and whether the observations can be placed by the Secretariat in the appropriate places throughout the report.



Mr. CARPIO (Philippines): In going over this document this afternoon, I noticed that the observations contained in it were confined to those made by members of the Trusteeship Council and to the observations of the Special Representative of the Administering Authority. No mention has been made of the various observations and suggestions made by members of the Advisory Council who, as the Council will probably remember, took part, each one of them in his turn, in giving ideas and suggestions with regard to the administration of the Trust Territory of Somaliland. It seems to me that the members of the Advisory Council are in a position to co-operate with the Trusteeship Council in the implementation of the high objectives set forth in the Charter on international trusteeship, yet, whatever good there was in these observations made by the members of the Advisory Council, they do not seem to appear at all in the document before us.

From my experience of three years sitting with the Trusteeship Council as representative of the Philippines, it occurred to me that there has never been any precedent in the Council's deliberations on whether observations of other than members of the Trusteeship Council should be included in the report to be made by this Council to the General Assembly. This is the only instance in my view where <sup>this is</sup> any need for such an inclusion will ever arise because, as the Council knows, the only Trust Territory where there is an Advisory Council to aid and advise the Administering Authority. For that reason, it would seem desirable for the Trusteeship Council to define its stand on this particular point with regard to the Trust Territory of Somaliland.

In my view, the Advisory Council is there as an organ of the General Assembly, and its members, by their presence on the spot, are in a position to observe matters which members of the Trusteeship Council do not have the opportunity to do. It seems to me that our observations on the administration of the Territory are entitled to as much weight, at least with regard to conditions, as perhaps any other member of the Trusteeship Council. That is why I should like to place this question before the Trusteeship Council, the question of whether or not the observations of members of the Advisory Council are worthy of inclusion among the observations made by members of the Trusteeship Council.

As I have said, there is no precedent on the matter. We have the rules of procedure of this Council, and I refer now to rule 101, which states:

"The sections of the general reports of the Trusteeship Council to the General Assembly relating to conditions in specific Trust Territories, referred to in rule 100, shall take into account the annual reports of the



Administering Authorities, and such other sources of information as may be available, ...."

In the view of my delegation, the actual knowledge and observations of members of the Advisory Council, because of their presence on the spot, form one of those "sources of information" that can be available to this Council if the Council is willing to take advantage of that actual knowledge. Therefore, although up to now there has not been any precedent for the inclusion of observations of members of the Advisory Council, it would seem to my delegation that the Trusteeship Council might well consider including the observations of members of the Advisory Council.

As regards the form or the substance of the paper before us, document T/L.193, I should like to ask the Trusteeship Council to define its stand on the matter, because the Trusteeship Council takes for granted particular statements made by certain representatives. For instance, in the consideration of petitions, whenever the Special Representative makes a definite statement of fact, it is almost always taken for granted as a statement of fact; and then comes the portion of the resolution which says that under those circumstances no action is called for. I feel that in the deliberations of the Council there ought to be at least some semblance of objectivity, and while one party asserts things as matters of fact, which are denied by another party, the Trusteeship Council, under such circumstances, should at least follow a procedure that would not altogether support one side as stating the truth and concluding that the other side has mis-stated the truth.

For that reason, I feel that it would be merely a matter of a few minutes or hours for the Secretariat to amend the document before us to include the observations of members of the Advisory Council; that is, with respect to the form and substance of the document before us. I reserve my right to speak later, on certain other phases of the work, in regard to this final report of the Council.

Mr. RYCKMANS (Belgium) (interpretation from French): First of all, I wish to state that of course I wholly agree with the representative of the Philippines as regards the importance of the observations made by members of the Advisory Council. The members of the Advisory Council were sent to Somaliland by authority of the General Assembly, in order that they might give their advice to the Administering Authority. This being understood, I would request the Trusteeship Council to reflect carefully before setting a precedent which heretofore has never been set in the Council.

Numerous persons may be called upon to speak before the Trusteeship Council. For example, all Members of the United Nations who have had an item included on the agenda of the Trusteeship Council may speak before it. Petitioners have been invited to submit their observations before the Council. But heretofore the Trusteeship Council has never included in its reports statements made by representatives of states other than Member States. To depart from such a precedent would be fraught with considerable danger.

The representative of the Philippines was a colleague of ours for some years. We have drawn comfort and enlightenment from his experience and advice. Certainly as a former member of the Trusteeship Council and as a member who has more experience than any of us, with the exception of the Special Representative of Italy, as regards conditions in Somaliland, the representative of the Philippines should participate in the debates. He is right; he should offer his observations to us. This is quite correct and desirable. That is one thing. However, it would be quite another thing to have the observations of the members of the Advisory Council. They are observations which, incidentally, the Trusteeship Council should bear in mind and pay heed to, and the members have constantly paid great attention to the opinions of the Advisory Council and they have done so particularly before pronouncing themselves in any way on the administration of Somaliland. We have read the report of the Administering Authority; we have read the documents which the Advisory Council was kind enough to submit to us. We certainly granted a hearing to the Special Representative; we granted a hearing to the members of the Advisory Council, and it is only after that that we submit our observations.

This is one thing. It is another thing altogether to adopt the suggestion of the representative of the Philippines. There we would be opening possibilities which are quite unpredictable. The Advisory Council was asked by the General Assembly to give advice, not to the Trusteeship Council but to the Administering Authority. Let us assume that the Advisory Council noted that the Administering Authority had not sufficiently heeded the advice that was vouchsafed to the Administering Authority by the Advisory Council, and let us assume, for the sake of argument, that the Advisory Council submitted a report to that effect or that individual members of the Advisory Council had submitted a report about their relations with the Administering Authority. Such a report might be published as an annex of the report of the Trusteeship Council, but I do not favour the insertion in the report of the Trusteeship Council of statements and observations of representatives of states other than states members of the Trusteeship Council.

Mr. de HOLTE-CASTELLO (Colombia) (interpretation from Spanish):

I do not want to have the Trusteeship Council engage in a procedural wrangle at a time when our work on Somaliland is being brought to a close. Nonetheless, I must point out to the Trusteeship Council, despite the very pertinent comments made by the representative of Belgium, that there cannot be a precedent involved here, because the territory in question is under a special trusteeship system, and the Advisory Council is the only advisory council existing at the present time. This Advisory Council is not even provided for by the Charter and, therefore, the situation is quite a separate and distinct one.

I have no particular interest in having the comments of the delegation of Colombia included or not included. However, in keeping with article 15, paragraph 2 of the Trusteeship Agreement which binds Italy, as the Administering Authority, and the United Nations to certain provisions, it is stated that members of the Council, collectively or individually, may submit oral or written memoranda to the Council. Clearly, I would leave it to the Trusteeship Council to take a decision, as it sees fit, as to whether such oral or written memoranda should be included in the annual report of the Trusteeship Council to the General Assembly. If the Trusteeship Council decides in the negative, the Colombian delegation would reserve its right to submit the point directly to the forthcoming General Assembly in Paris.

Mr. CARPIO (Philippines): I just want to say one thing with regard to the statement made by the representative of Belgium that until now no mention has been made of any observations of anyone except members of the Trusteeship Council. I think that is not a fair statement of fact, because if we were to consider this document before us, we would see that there is a summary of the statements made by the Special Representative of the Administering Authority who, surely, no one will say is a member of the Trusteeship Council. Therefore, in the very document before us we have already established that precedent of including statements of persons other than members of the Trusteeship Council.



Under the special circumstances of the Trusteeship Agreement that covers the Trust Territory of Somaliland and in view of the reasons I have already mentioned, justice would require that observations of members of the Advisory Council should likewise be given some consideration in the reports to be made. Like the representative of Colombia, there are certain points which I should like to have my delegation pursue in the Assembly. But without any mention of this subject in the report of the Trusteeship Council, there would hardly be any basis or background for such action. Therefore I appeal to the members of the Trusteeship Council to give this matter the serious consideration it deserves.

Even in the documents that have been presented to us this afternoon, it seems to me that there is an apparent partiality with respect to taking for granted as facts those asserted by one party and denying as falsehoods those asserted by the opposite party. The whole world is watching us here in our deliberations. If we are to make the Trusteeship System a living organ for the administration of Trust Territories, our procedure should accord more or less with democratic processes.

In due time, I shall have occasion to comment on the deletions being proposed by the Drafting Committee. However I feel very strongly that unless the procedure of the Trusteeship Council is such that it appeals to the reasoned and enlightened of our day, it is doomed to failure, and all the principles that are enshrined in the Charter will be nothing more than pious wishes.

The PRESIDENT: As no other representative wishes to make any observations, I shall read article 11 of the Draft Trusteeship Agreement for the Territory of Somaliland under Italian administration. It refers to the right of the States Members of the Advisory Council who are not members of the Trusteeship Council to join in the debate. It continues as follows:

"In the course of such debates, members of the Advisory Council or the majority of the members, acting in the name of the Advisory Council, or each of the members acting separately, may make to the Trusteeship Council such oral statements or may submit such written reports or memoranda as they may deem necessary for the Council's proper consideration on any question specifically relating to the Territory".



The Council will remember that the Advisory Council did not submit any report but a document was read to us which had been drafted by the Secretariat.

Rule 101 of our rules of procedure reads as follows:

"The sections of the general reports of the Trusteeship Council to the General Assembly relating to conditions in specific Trust Territories...shall take into account the annual reports of the Administering Authorities, and such other sources of information as may be available, including petitions, reports of visiting missions, and any special investigations or enquiries..."

I have not the slightest doubt that the observations of the Advisory Council were taken notice of by the Drafting Committee which dealt with the Somaliland report, and that report has now been adopted by the Council. We are now dealing with the proposal to include the individual observations of the members of the Advisory Council in document T/L.193. I propose to put that question to the Council.

The proposal was rejected by 6 votes to 1, with 4 abstentions.

Mr. KHALIDY (Iraq): I wish briefly to explain my vote. I abstained simply because I did not have time to study the question which might or might not have had any special merit. In the circumstances, without any opportunity to study the question closely or to receive instructions from my Government, I could do nothing but abstain.

Mr. SAYRE (United States of America): I should like to explain my vote. So far as I can understand it, the report of the Trusteeship Council to the General Assembly as made under rules 100 and 101 is a report made by the Trusteeship Council and by nobody else. Under our rules, the Trusteeship Council should collect all the information it can, evaluate it and then formulate its own conclusions and write its report on the strength of those conclusions. In pursuance of those rules, the Trusteeship Council, on 23 February 1950, adopted resolution 123 (VI) which is included in the official records of the sixth session of the Trusteeship Council, 19 January -- 4 April 1950. After lengthy discussion and very careful consideration, the following was adopted:

"That the reports shall consist of three parts, i.e., Part I. Outline of general conditions as stated in the Report of the Administering Authority; Part II. Conclusions and recommendations approved by the Trusteeship Council; Part III. Observations of members of the Trusteeship Council representing their individual opinions only. Each of the three parts of the report shall be headed respectively by the foregoing titles".

It seemed to me that when we voted there was no question of fairness or justice concerned here, no question of valuing opinions which were delivered or which were transmitted to us. There might be statements of specialized agencies and many other statements such as we have heard on other occasions, but in carrying out our duties in formulating a report which the Trusteeship Council, and only the Trusteeship Council, makes to the General Assembly under rules 100 and 101 and under resolution 123, passed on 23 February 1950, we have no right to include statements other than those expressly provided in the resolution to which I have referred.

The PRESIDENT: Are there any other observations? If not, the Council accepts document T/L.193 as part of the report.

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT: Will the members of the Council please turn now to document T/L.189, which contains amendments suggested by the Secretariat to the outline of conditions. This deals with the petitions on Somaliland. Are there any observations on this document? If not, we can take it that this document is accepted.

It was so decided.

I shall now put to the Council the question whether the report on Somaliland should be accepted as a whole.

The report as a whole was adopted by 11 votes to 1.

Mr. SOLDATOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): I wish to make it clear that the delegation of the Soviet Union voted against that part of the report of the Trusteeship Council to the sixth session of the General Assembly which relates to the Trust Territory of Somaliland because the proposals submitted by the delegation of the Soviet Union, proposals to safeguard the interests of the indigenous population of the Territory and designed to ensure that the Administering Authority should strictly abide by the Charter of the United Nations in administering the Territory, failed of adoption as recommendations of the Trusteeship Council. The Council, to the contrary, chose to adopt recommendations of a general character which are not designed to ensure the effective functioning of the International Trusteeship System. Those recommendations do not pay heed to

the interests and rights of the indigenous population of Somaliland.

In the light of those considerations the Soviet Union delegation voted against the approval of this report of the Trusteeship Council, it being understood that we are voting in the first instance against those recommendations which were adopted by the Trusteeship Council. Naturally, the Soviet Union delegation reserves the right as the delegation of the Soviet Union to advocate its position in the General Assembly when the matter comes up.

Mr. GUIDOTTI (Italy): I shall not take up much of the Council's time. I should like only to express the Italian Government's gratitude to the Trusteeship Council for having voiced its sympathy for the efforts that are being carried out by the Administering Authority in the Territory of Somaliland. I hope that the report of the Administration and the opening statement of the Special Representative and his answers to members of the Council will have made <sup>it</sup> clear that Italy's sole ambition in Somaliland is to foster the well-being and the advancement of the population of the Territory so that it may obtain independence within the period set by the Trusteeship Council. The discussions which have taken place in the Council and the resolution adopted are considered by the Italian Government to be most heartening; it will be invaluable for future work in Somaliland.

I can assure the Council that the Administration will endeavour to do everything in its power in order that the recommendations may be implemented to the fullest extent as quickly as conditions will permit.

I could not end without tendering my personal thanks, as well as those of the Special Representative, to the President for the courteous manner in which he has conducted the discussion.

The PRESIDENT: I am sure the Council would wish me to express to the members of the Advisory Commission its thanks for the assistance we have received from <sup>them</sup> and also to express to it on behalf of the Council the assurance that we have paid very careful attention to the observations made by those representatives.

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, T/903, T/910; T/L.182) (continued)

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

59

Sir Carl BERENDSEN (New Zealand): My delegation feels the reports on the French Cameroons for 1949 and 1950, and the additional information supplied by the Special Representative and the representative of France, show steady and very encouraging progress.

In the political field the Territory participates in legislation through its representatives in the French National Assembly, the Council of the Republic, the Assembly of the French Union and the Economic Council. It has its own representative assembly which can take decisions on a number of matters of local interest and which discusses and passes the budget, and there seems to be a harmonious co-operation between the Administration and this representative assembly. Progress towards adult suffrage appears to be promising, and plans seem well advanced for the development of regional and municipal institutions. The participation of the Africans in the administrative services also seems to be substantial and growing, and the judicial system appears to be steadily improving. The chief problems now, as we see them, seem to be the increasing development of adult suffrage among the African population, the revision and extension of the powers and functions of the representative assembly and the development of democratic organs of regional government. My delegation will study with interest future reports of political progress in the Territory.

In the economic field the general picture is one of great activity and of considerable and constructive capital development assisted by subsidies from the metropolitan government and by a low rate of interest on internal borrowing. Trade is increasing, and although the value of imports exceeds that of exports the rate for 1950 does not appear to have changed as compared with 1949. In fact, there seems to have been a slight improvement, and, furthermore, a large part of the importation seems to consist of material for construction, for transport, for power and for general development, and thus may properly be regarded as strengthening the economy of the country and its future earning capacity. The local budget seems to be in sound condition and the co-operative system well developed.

One point on which my delegation feels that there ought to be a careful review by the Administering Authority is the granting of land concessions to non-indigenous inhabitants. We feel that great care should be taken in the granting of such concessions to see to it that the proper interests of the Africans are adequately safeguarded.



As regards social development, we note with satisfaction the progress made towards improving wage rates and living standards. We are glad to see that vocational selection and training appear to be improving, and we recommend continued and increasing effort in this field. In particular, we would urge continued effort to ensure for the Territory an adequate number of doctors, European or African, and the widest possible provision of hospitals and medical facilities together with the necessary educational campaign to induce the African to utilize these facilities fully.

We recommend the Council to encourage the Administering Authority in all proper and feasible measures to ameliorate the position of women in the Territory.

With regard to education, progress seems to my delegation to be satisfactory on the whole, but we do note that more schools are still being asked for in petitions and we hope that the Administering Authority will continue to make every effort to meet this very proper and laudable demand.



In conclusion, I should like to pay my tribute to the Special Representative for the frank and helpful manner in which he has replied to requests for information. While much, of course and obviously, remains to be done in many fields, we have nevertheless formed a very favourable general impression of the administration of this Territory, which will stand up well to a close comparison with situations in comparable Territories elsewhere. Much well-directed energy has obviously been, and, I am confident, will continue to be directed. In my view France and the local authorities are to be warmly commended.

Mr. MATHIESON (United Kingdom): May I first of all remark on the quality of the reports produced by the Administering Authority on the administration of the Cameroons under French trusteeship for the years 1949 and 1950. These reports are particularly well presented, effectively illustrated and accompanied by statistical appendices, drawn up in such a way that the salient facts affecting <sup>all aspects of</sup> development in the Territory are readily appreciable.

To turn first to the subject of political advancement, I should like to take at the outset the central institutions of government. It has naturally enough been disappointing to the Trusteeship Council that, through the operation of those democratic processes which it is our mandate to sponsor, it has proved impossible for the French Parliament to deal conclusively with the important proposals which have been put to it regarding the modification of the existing powers and duties of the Representative Assembly. While at the present stage of development it is legitimate to note that the legislative authority retained by the French Parliament over the French Cameroons limits substantially the field in which the Representative Assembly has power of decision, I was much interested in the demonstration by the representative of France that, although the main lines of policy are determined by metropolitan legislation, there is virtually no feature of the practical day-to-day directed administration of the Territory on which the advice of the Representative Assembly need not be sought, or in which this advice materially affects the action of the executive authority. Substantial progress is indicated in the information conveyed to us by the Special Representative that the electorate <sup>now</sup> numbers over half a million people, and it is hoped that many more inhabitants of the Cameroons will take steps to exercise those political rights and responsibilities which it has been the care of the Administration to extend to them. We also hope that on the occasion of the next annual report it will be possible for the Administering Authority to inform the Council of the changes which have been agreed in the powers

and functions of the Representative Assembly, and the Council at that time will be justified in commending the Administering Authority for the steps taken to increase the numbers of the inhabitants who directly participate in the central political life of the Territory, and in planning a further devolution of powers to the Representative Assembly.

A principle of political development to which my delegation attaches great importance is that direct responsibility for and experience in local government institutions is the best training ground for the exercise of central political functions. In this connexion we have been most interested to note the steps which have been taken for the development of local government through a decentralization of administration, especially in the north. This will help to stimulate in the people of that area a closer interest in conducting their own affairs at the local level.

Comparable with this advance in the north we also find an encouraging development in the organization of municipal government in the large centres in the south. The local government arrangements for Douala referred to in the 1950 report are a notable advance in the democratization of local government institutions, and we hope that such opposition as has been expressed to the extension of this system will speedily evaporate under the experience of working it. It is arrangements such as these which are liable to stimulate a greater sense of civic responsibility among the inhabitants of the urban centres and bring them to take steps to aid the Administration in its commendable attempt to combat the economic and social evils of the drifting of tribal Africans towards the towns, which the Administration rightly regards as a matter causing concern.

As another example of the democratization of local government organizations, my delegation would commend the steps which have been taken to convert the Councils of Notables into Regional Councils and would urge the Administering Authority to take all possible steps to convince the Representative Assembly that it is only in this way that political developments can properly be stimulated to a degree which will justify a greater extension of the powers of the Central Assembly itself. My delegation feels that the Trusteeship Council might well commend the Administering Authority for its action in promoting these developments in local government and expresses the hope that as experience shows their value they will be more widely extended throughout the Territory.

These political developments have been matched by parallel and supporting extensions in the field of administration itself. It is welcome news that with a strengthening of the administrative resources of the Territory it has been found possible to turn greater attention to the north where the presence of qualified administrators with a knowledge of economic affairs cannot but have a helpful influence on development.

I was particularly interested in the reply of the Special Representative to a question by my delegation regarding the potentiality of the Iagone Valley, since it seems to us that in this part of the Territory there is room for substantial expansion which will perhaps contribute towards a solution of the problems of over-population in the south.

The problem of communications is, of course, the crux of the situation in this part of the Territory, and it was with great satisfaction that my Government participated in the most useful conference at Tschang on transport problems of this area to which reference is made on pages 39 and 40 of the 1950 report. It was through the initiative of the Administering Authority at other international conferences on the transport problems of Africa that this particular question was singled out for intensive treatment. I should like to assure the Council that the Government of Nigeria is at all times ready to co-operate to the full in developing the outlets for the produce of this area of great potential. I have no doubt that other members of the Council will deal with the major aspects of economic development, and I would only like at this stage to endorse what has been said by the representative of New Zealand. But there is one particular point to which I should like to direct attention. The Administering Authority rightly states that one of the principal objects of its agricultural policy is the conservation of

the soil. It is well established that the maintenance and establishment of adequate forest cover is an essential feature of any effective soil conservation programme. It is encouraging to note from the 1950 report that a modification of the practice of annual fires has proved administratively enforceable and it is to be extended from the experimental area in which it was first applied. It is, however, very disturbing to note that although a proportion of 33 per cent of forests of total land area is a desirable standard in a territory with the climate and situation of the French Cameroons, an extension of the present forest reserves which represent only 2.5 per cent of the land surface of the Territory has been opposed by the Representative Assembly. As is stated in the 1950 report, the local population and their representatives have not yet come to understand the vital importance of the maintenance of forest cover for the future of the Territory. The Council, in the view of my delegation, should urge the Administering Authority to persist with its efforts to extend the area of protected forests under conditions which preserve to the local inhabitants the full exercise of all rights which can be exercised without infringing sound agricultural practice. If it should still be necessary to take exceptional measures to persuade the Representative Assembly that these principles of sound forest management do not derive from any sinister intention on the part of the administration, the Administering Authority -- and I put this merely as a suggestion to the Administering Authority -- might consider asking the Food and Agriculture Organization to send an independent expert to review forest policy in the Cameroons and make recommendations regarding the policy which are technically best in accordance with the standards of that international organization. I am sure that such an expert would fully endorse the policy which has been proposed by the Administering Authority.

I shall conclude by stating how grateful we are to the Special Representative and to the representative of France for the patient and helpful way in which they have presented this report to the Council and answered questions on it.



Mr. RYCKMANS (Belgium) (interpretation from French): The reports before us are a remarkable production. They show that the Cameroons under French Administration is a Territory where progress is rapidly proceeding in all realms of endeavour. I need not stress again all the evidence of such progress. Let me just mention that various institutions and establishments have been set up to foster the economy of the Territory, such as a cacao experimental station, a bureau of soils, health services. These are all establishments which will foster the development of the Territory when they become more widespread.

My delegation has noted, with satisfaction the increased appropriations for the road network. We note <sup>also</sup> the extra-ordinary increase in investments under the ten-year plan. These investments again will foster the prosperity of the Territory. We note the increased appropriations for medical services, which have doubled between 1948 and 1950, passing from 166 million francs to 375 million francs. We note likewise a considerable increase of appropriations for educational purposes.

My delegation also wishes to endorse the observations made by certain other delegations that took a leading part in the work of the drafting committee. There is one point, however, on which I wish to comment especially. This is a point regarding which serious misunderstandings have arisen between the indigenous inhabitants of the Cameroons and the Administering Authority. I wish to comment on this point because the same problem has arisen in numerous other African Territories, and I should like to outline the problem as such to the members of the Trusteeship Council as lucidly as possible, particularly in the light of my personal experience. The problem is the question of land tenure, of public domain, of state domain, of private property, etc, and the questions that have arisen in connexion with the scheduling of forests.

The representative of the United Kingdom has mentioned the opposition displayed by the indigenous inhabitants. . and even by the Representative Assembly, to any new programme of scheduling forests. As my colleagues will remember, this question has been of concern to the Belgian delegation. It is a grave problem indeed, and I consider that the Administering Authority does not have the right to use the refusal of the Representative Assembly as an excuse for not doing something which it recognizes as necessary and essential for the welfare of the country. I shall go even further in speaking about the real estate problem in general.

The land tenure policy has been condemned by some members of the Council who feel that the Administering Authority, in scheduling forests or in granting forest concessions, has infringed upon the rights of the people. In this respect I wish to remind the Council of what is the foundation of the rights of the population.

The indigenous inhabitants of the Cameroons regard themselves today as the proprietors of the forests. When the Administering Authority grants a forestry concession, without even <sup>examining</sup> the conditions under which this concession is granted the indigenous inhabitants consider that they have been despoiled.

It is incumbent on the Council to examine the realities of the situation. What are the rights and titles of the indigenous people to forest lands in the Territory? I should like to tell the Council that these rights are in no way property rights in Africa. They are not property rights under the conception of Roman law nor under the conception of freehold in Anglo-Saxon law. The indigenous inhabitants exercise sui generis rights over land, rights which cannot be compared to rights found under civilized systems. Under no indigenous custom is it possible to sell land. Indigenous collectivities do not have the power to sell land because land is not regarded as a chattel or something that can be disposed of. Consequently, it is not property under Roman law.

The only rights the indigenous inhabitants can invoke with regard to the forests are the rights exercised by custom. What are these rights? Under custom, certain indigenous inhabitants, being members of a family, clan or tribe, enjoy the right, which exclude the rights of all other people, to hunt in a certain sector of the forest. They enjoy the right to fell wood for their fires, the right to collect leaves to cover their houses, the right to take the bark of the trees to use as walls in their houses and the right to fell the trees, which they will burn into canoes. These are rights sui generis exercised by virtue of custom. But custom never stipulated that the indigenous inhabitants have the right to sell a stand of timber to a sawing establishment, because custom did not think of sawing establishments.

What are the duties of the Administering Authority? It is the duty of the Administering Authority to leave to the indigenous inhabitants the free enjoyment of rights which they exercise under custom. Except for certain cases in which there may be some agreement for just compensation, or if there is compensation for public reasons, the Administration cannot grant concessions which would jeopardize the right of the indigenous inhabitants to collect materials of construction they need from the forest.

But the forests do not belong to the indigenous people residing therein, because the indigenous <sup>people</sup> did not at any time under custom exercise the right of property over these forests. The state, which is the Cameroonian collectivity in this case, is not the Administering Authority as such. When the state takes over the residual rights which no custom authorizes the indigenous inhabitants to exercise, the state does not despoil anybody. Let us remember that the Trusteeship Council has always sought to establish in the Trust Territories some sort of national consciousness. It has always sought to imbue the indigenous

inhabitants with a notion of unity which they have not had previously. It has sought to instill the idea of political unity, of an entity, of a Cameroons State, independent of the tribes inhabiting that State -- an idea which has not existed previously. Now this Cameroons State must be viable. It must have a public domain. What is the domain that can be attached to it? It is the totality of the rights which the indigenous custom never provided for and the exercise of which was not provided for. It is the right which would leave <sup>to</sup> the indigenous inhabitants the free exercise of all rights granted to them by custom, but which would give to the collectivity, which we wish to foster and to implant in the mentality of the indigenous inhabitants, a patrimony which is needed by the state in its efforts to develop as such a collectivity.



At our fourth session we adopted a resolution calling upon the Administering Authority to foster sentiments of territorial unity, that is, the feeling of consciousness of the entity of the Cameroons above any chiefdom or tribe. At the sixth session we asked the Administering Authority to pay heed to the traditional rights of the indigenous inhabitants. Well and good, but the Administering Authority pays heed to those rights and it respects them if it leaves to the indigenous inhabitants all those rights which, under custom, they previously exercised. It seems to me that if it attributes to that higher entity, which is still an indigenous entity, the territory of the Cameroons, the residual rights not exercised in actuality by the indigenous collectivity, then it does not despoil the indigenous inhabitants of anything at all, because they cannot be deprived of the right of granting concessions for their benefit in various lands since custom never contemplated the establishment of such forestry concessions. There were no such things under custom.

Therefore, the dues paid in consideration for forestry concessions should not go to the tribes, because the tribes still fully exercise all their land rights, but should go to the State, the broader entity, the development of which we wish to foster. I should have understood if the representative of the Soviet Union, who took exception the other day to various concessions, had criticized the nature of certain specific concessions. He might have said that in this or that case the Administering Authority had not demanded sufficient payment in consideration and that therefore the Cameroons development had been throttled. He might have said that the fee of x francs per cubic foot of wood exported had been asked while a much larger fee should have been paid. There might have been a division of opinion on that account. There might have been legitimate criticism, a criticism which should have been examined closely, but the very principle of attaching to the State rather than to the restricted units such as the tribes the payment made in consideration for such concessions is an important principle which should remain entirely inviolate.

I thought it necessary to make this point clear because the problem is the same as that which arose in the British Cameroons in connexion with the Cameroons Development Corporation. There, the Bakweri tribe claimed that the Cameroons Development Corporation should function for their sole and exclusive profit, but it should function for the profit and benefit of the Territory as a whole. It is the duty of the Trusteeship Council to foster the development of the Territory as a whole and to foster the consciousness of the inhabitants in the entity of

their territory. We have to induce the indigenous inhabitants to realize the importance of the entity of the State, an entity which did not exist before in their political consciousness, but which does exist today and which the Trusteeship Council, under the Charter, has the duty to strengthen and foster in the future.

The PRESIDENT: The discussion will be continued tomorrow. Our agenda tomorrow will be, firstly, the continuation of this discussion, secondly, the report on Tanganyika, including the observations of individual members and the adoption of the report as a whole and, thirdly, the opening statement and questions on Togoland under United Kingdom Administration.

The Drafting Committee on the Cameroons under United Kingdom Administration will meet at 10.30 a.m. at Flushing. I wish it were possible for a meeting of the Committee on Petitions/ <sup>to be held,</sup> but, unfortunately, the Chairman of that Committee will be engaged in another Committee. I hope the Committee on Petitions will be able to meet as soon as possible because time is passing and it is likely that our work will be held up if the Committee does not proceed.

Before we adjourn, I think most of my colleagues will agree with me when I say that something should be done to improve the temperature of this room. I wonder if the Assistant Secretary-General could do anything. It will be remembered that when we considered meeting here the promise was given to us that this room would be properly air-conditioned. It may be air-conditioned, but I am quite sure it is not properly air-conditioned.

Mr. HOO (Assistant Secretary-General, Department of Trusteeship): I will do my best to see that the air-conditioning is improved. It is, of course, not my department which is in charge of the management of this building, but I will contact those who are in charge and try to have an improvement made in the air-conditioning.

The meeting rose at 6.05 p.m.