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Thirteenth Session

VERBATIM RECORD OF THE FOUR HUNDRED AND NINETIETH MEETING

(Transcription from the sound track)

Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Friday, 5 February 1954, at 2 p.m.

Acting President:

Mr. URQUIA

(El Salvador)

Note: The Official Record of this meeting, i.e., the summary record, will appear in provisional mimeographed form under the symbol T/SR.490 and will be subject to representatives' corrections. It will appear in final form in a printed volume.

54-03335

EXAMINATION OF CONDITIONS IN THE CAMEROONS UNDER BRITISH ADMINISTRATION (T/L.404):

- (a) ANNUAL REPORT (T/1090, 1094) [Agenda item 3 c]
- (b) PETITIONS (T/PET.4 and 5/L.1 to 5; T/COM. 4 and 5/L.1) [Agenda item 4]
- (c) REPORT OF THE UNITED NATIONS VISITING MISSION TO TRUST TERRITORIES IN WEST AFRICA, 1952 (T/1042; 1074) [Agenda item 5] (continued).

Observations of members of the Council (continued)

At the invitation of the Acting President, Brigadier E.J. Gibbons, special representative for the Cameroons under British Administration, took a seat at the Council table.

Mr. QUIROS (El Salvador) (interpretation from Spanish): My delegation has studied with the greatest interest the annual report submitted by the United Kingdom concerning its administration of the Cameroons during 1952, but it was the special representative's introductory statement and his answers to the questions put to him -- especially those referring to political advancement -- which impressed us most. In effect, I believe I am not mistaken in saying that the report referring to political matters is completely out of date, and in relation to this circumstance, we would support the observations presented by the representative of Syria in his statement the day before yesterday. We will support his suggestion to the effect that the Administering Authorities might provide a few days in advance of the opening of the session a mimeographed copy or an extract of the most important recent happenings in the Territories during the period following upon the closing of the period which appears in the report. We feel that such a measure would be of great benefit to the Council itself and to the Administering Authorities also.

In view of this it is obvious that my brief and preliminary observations in relation to political advancement will refer to the very important decisions taken at the recent conference held in the capital of Nigeria. I say that these are brief and preliminary because my delegation feels that it is perhaps premature to reach precise and definitive conclusions on the basis of information which has

not yet been presented in great enough detail. Two facts however, emerge with great clarity as a result of the recent constitutional changes. The first of these is that the southern part of the Cameroons, which as you know is constituted of the provinces of Cameroons and Bamenda, will be separate from the eastern region of Nigeria and will become, as the special representative himself said, a federal territory which will have its own legislative and executive organs, which will decide upon the majority of the internal governmental questions in the region. Up to this point, my delegation feels that it must state the great satisfaction it experiences in noting that the people in the southern Cameroons have made a great step ahead along the road to their complete independence.

/On the other hand,

On the other hand, my delegation would not be sincere if it were not to express its gratitude to the Administering Authority for having implemented the will of the people in this section of the Territory.

Now, I come to the second point, with regard to which the enthusiasm of my delegation evaporates to a great extent. In effect, how pleased my delegation would have been to have heard that all of the Territory, and not just the southern part, had achieved the status which has been reached by the southern part. However, the northern part of the Cameroons -- we are told by the special representative -- will continue to be merged with the northern region of Nigeria. Of course, we realize that there is a great difference between the northern and southern parts of the Cameroons, but we do not feel that there is any insurmountable obstacle or barrier there. I believe that the northern part of the Territory should be encouraged and that greater contact should be achieved between the two parts of the Territory. There should be more work done in the field of education in the northern part so that the cultural level of the northern region can be raised. And, finally, an attempt should be made to give the inhabitants of the northern region an idea of the fact that they in the north, in union with the south, constitute in international law an entity which is different from that of a colony.

Now, I will not linger on this matter. I will simply recall the profound sense of nationalism in these various Territories, even though there are many different races and civilizations there. It has taken a long time to achieve this feeling, but it takes encouragement and that is what the Cameroonians need.

I do not want it thought that I am expressing criticism here; I know that the Administering Authority is making great efforts and we recognize this fact. But these ideas which I have presented are the sincere beliefs of my delegation. We also recall what the special representative told us, namely, that at the Lagos Conference, the northern part of the Cameroons seemed likely to continue in the status quo. However, on the other hand, we must take into account what is to be or can be understood by the will of these people. We realize that in that region there still are a great number of chiefs who exercise extensive authority over the tribes of the Territory. Their interests and will power are considerable, but we must not interpret the will of these chiefs as being the will of the people as a whole. With regard to this, it would be very interesting if the Administering Authority could provide us with a map showing the distribution of

the tribues and the chiefdoms.

I might now refer to the consequences which might arise as a result of the new constitutional organization and its relationship with the Trusteeship Agreement. I know very well, and I do not dispute the fact, that the Administering Authority -- under the provisions of the Trusteeship Agreement -- has the power to administer the whole of the Territory, or any part thereof, as an integral part of the territory of Nigeria. I will not make further observations here because we do not have full details of the new constitutional provisions and, furthermore, I believe that this is a matter which ought to be dealt with most carefully in the Committee on Administrative Unions.

My delegation would simply like to note once again, as it has done on previous occasions, the great interest and desire which we feel in endeavouring to see how this northern part of the Territory may one day come to be an autonomous region in union with the southern part of the Territory.

I will present only brief observations with regard to the economic field, not simply because it has been dealt with by other representatives in an extensive manner, but also because in reality it is rather difficult, at least for me, to take up these economic questions. Therefore, I will be very brief. My delegation, nevertheless, has been following with the greatest interest the development of the Camerouns Development Corporation; this Corporation has a great deal of direct influence upon all aspects of the life in the Territory. Its development, with the advice and assistance of the Administration -- we must recognize this fact -- is, in reality, very encouraging and we hope that the Corporation will continue to meet with great success, success which will redound to the benefit of the entire Territory. My delegation need only make a suggestion, namely, that the profits of this Corporation be distributed with the greatest possible amount of fairness between the northern and southern parts of the Territory, that is to say that the northern part of the Territory should not be ^{that would happen} overlooked, if all the benefits and profits were to go to the southern part of the Territory. We are glad to know that because of the new constitutional reforms, there are regional agricultural and commercial boards and they will be established independent of the boards which exist in Nigeria.

With regard to the social field, I would simply like to refer to endemic diseases in the region: syphilis and malaria are sicknesses which are undermining

the health of the majority of the population; the Administration is putting forth great efforts and meeting with much difficulty, due to the ignorance and negligence of the inhabitants; these people do not come to the dispensaries and clinics to be treated, at least not most of them. We believe that the Council should draw the attention of the inhabitants to these endemic diseases so that they will co-operate and receive treatment for them.

Now, with regard to corporal punishment, I must point out that even though we take into account the fact that there has been a decrease in the amount of corporal punishment meted out to adults, we feel however that everything must be done to implement the resolution passed by the Council and the General Assembly itself in relation to the abolition of corporal punishment.

Now, with regard to education, my delegation believes that free education -- especially in the primary schools -- is an objective which the Administration must never lose sight of and it is an objective which the Administration must make every effort to promote. We would like to point out that in the adjacent/^{Territory} of the French Cameroons, public education is entirely free. It might be argued that the policies of the two Administrations are different in this aspect of education, but we must say that the great benefits to be obtained by the inhabitants from free education must be equal in both Territories -- it is just as good for the French Cameroons as it would be for the British Cameroons. The educational training centres will do a great deal in training expert workers; we have a centre here for 185 pupils and I hope that those 185 pupils will soon be found and trained.

/We find that there has been

We find that there has been a great improvement in the Territory here, as reflected in this report. We have viewed this with the greatest satisfaction, and we trust that the improvement will continue.

Finally, my delegation hopes that the Administering Authority, as well as the Cameroons Development Corporation, will continue to grant to young Cameroonians scholarships in higher institutions in Nigeria and in the metropolitan country as well.

I should not like to conclude my statement without stating my gratitude and very sincere thanks to the distinguished special representative, Brigadier Gibbons, for the very kind answers which he gave to the few questions which I put to him; especially I should like to express to him personally the very great friendship which I feel towards him for his many kindnesses shown me when I had the good fortune of visiting the Territory. I should also like to congratulate him on the new position which he will hold in view of the recent constitutional reforms which have come into force there. He will hold an even more important position there, and I know he will do his duty in this new position because of his very great and outstanding qualities.

In this connexion, allow me to recall the words spoken to me by one of the leaders in the Southern Cameroons when, quite sincerely and spontaneously, he told me: "Mr. Quiros, if all the colonial officials of the United Kingdom were like Brigadier Gibbons, I believe that the fulfilment of our hopes and wishes would come about much more quickly".

Mr. DORSINVILLE (Haiti)(interpretation from French): I do not wish to dwell at length on the report submitted by the United Kingdom Government for the Territory of the Cameroons under its administration and on the report of the Visiting Mission. Certain elements of appreciation are still lacking for me, and I do not wish to give the impression of being too dogmatic. My intention is much simpler.

I would like, in the first place, to stress the most interesting observation made by our colleague from Syria, who contrasted the British attitude in 1949 with its attitude in 1952, which is the date of the report we are considering, and the events which have been proceeding since. I think that this should retain our attention.

This remark has a meaning for my delegation, that is, that it recalls to us that in the contingencies of this position there is no desperate situation and that we must retain our faith in an always better evolution of peoples who for some reason or another have not yet acquired their place among us. We should remember that in spite of the good dispositions of each one of the Administering Powers the peoples directly concerned should increasingly express their points of view on the problems which are theirs. They will thus sooner or later lead us to the consideration of these problems and they will be allowed to envisage these problems themselves. They will find that there may be a solution presented by the Administering Power, but there may also be a better one suggested when the other side has received due consideration. I cannot believe that we have one already for the Territory with which we are concerned at the present time; but on studying the documents which we have before us, and as a result of the debate that has proceeded thus far, it seems that a march forward is visible, at least for the Southern part of the Cameroons, in which we have seen a political conscience arising and a larger share of the activity of the indigenous population in the Regional and Central Councils -- although in my opinion the direct representatives of the metropolitan Power weigh much too heavily in their deliberations. Owing to the exorbitant powers which the Governor enjoys, the indigenous representation may be reduced to a simple representation, and the exercise of local administration to a mere phantasy.

We know, moreover, that the man is as good as the function and that the spirit which presides over these institutions must be improved. The South Cameroons enjoy better financial, health and educational facilities. My delegation would like to draw the attention of the Administering Power to the Northern part, the situation of which is certainly not an enviable one. The special representative replied with remarkable courtesy and patience -- to which I pay tribute -- to all the questions which were put to him, but will he allow me to say that as far as I am concerned I fear that the Southern Cameroons are receiving preferential treatment, to the detriment of the Northern part.

I would also like to draw the attention of the Council to the question of school attendance. I have the impression -- in spite of the opinion of the Administering Authority as regards the insignificance of school fees and the free education for certain needy families, scholarships and so forth -- that school

attendance would perhaps be greater if education were entirely free. It is true that when parents make every effort in order to pay, they are concerned with school attendance, but if parents -- as was pointed out by the special representative himself -- are not interested in education, then they want even less to pay and to send their children to school. I wondered what the efficiency of the native school could be as compared to the school of the Roman Catholic Mission or any other of the same type. That is why I drew the attention of the special representative to the photographs which have been published. It was replied that the indigenous school was within the confines of the Northern Region and that children would run away if they were shown a pencil and a sheet of white paper. I think that a great effort of persuasion must be undertaken, in order to persuade still rebellious minds that they should be educated. I think that in the particular case of the purely indigenous school, even in outlying parts of the Territory, there would be a greater stimulus if the child in school saw something different from the family atmosphere -- if when he left his poor family hut he entered into a room which had only simple furniture, but had the essential things, such as seats which would make him feel higher than a four-footed animal, a blackboard made with two pieces of boards, and slates which could not be worn out.

I would like to believe that the Administering Authority will give more attention to these indigenous schools of the Northern Cameroons.

It would seem that a richer economic life is visible in the diversification of agricultural products and the beginning of industrialization. The minimum salary seems to us to be rather low. The figure of two shillings a day, which is equivalent to approximately 25 American cents does not seem to us to enable the individual normally to meet his personal needs and the needs of a family.

My delegation noted the negative attitude of the United Kingdom Government in the question of the time-limit within which the Territory might achieve complete self-government or independence. My delegation makes its reservations as regards the changes of a constitutional nature^{or} which we have only heard echoes so far.

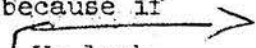
These are the essential observations which I wish to present.

Mr. Krishna MENON (India): This is the first occasion on which my country, and I as its representative, has taken part in the proceedings of the

Trusteeship Council. I have already had occasion to express our gratitude to the President of the Council for the warm sentiments of welcome that he expressed when we came here. I would like to take this opportunity of adding to those remarks our sense of gratitude to our colleague from Syria and also to the rest of the members of the Council and yourself, Mr. President, for the happy degree of collaboration and comradeship that we find in this Council.

Now, having said that,

Now, having said that, my Government desires me to give a general statement of our approach and attitude with regard to these Trusteeship matters; because we, as a country, come here with two strands of experience. One, today, is that of an administering country -- administering ourselves, not other people -- with the considerable problems of administration not far removed from the problems that affect the Trusteeship countries, of a backward economy, of illiteracy, of social problems -- that is, problems of non-exercise of full franchise, or of child marriages, it does not matter what; and the other is that of a country with the experience of subjection to colonial rule not so far away. We know both the weight of these problems -- the merits that lie in one and the other -- and the difficulties that face administrators.

Politically our approach to the Trusteeship problem is, not that it is a liberalized or enlightened form of colonial rule, nor that it is the administration of a Territory by a metropolitan Power in an enlightened manner, but that it is merely the wardship, or what it says, the trusteeship -- that is, the Territory belongs to the people, sovereignty rests in them; they are not even, in our conception, United Nations Territories, because if we said that, it would be merely an exercise of joint imperialism. We look  upon the Administering Powers as people who have voluntarily taken on arduous responsibilities of administration, as stewards on behalf of the United Nations, in the interests of people who are regarded -- rightly or wrongly, and fully or otherwise -- as not yet capable of conducting their own affairs in the comity of nations in this rather complex and arduous world.]

That is our approach to the whole problem of Trusteeship, and it will colour very considerably our criticisms, our approach, our observations and everything in matters regarding Trust Territories.

We do not regard the pace of improvement, or the measures that are introduced or contemplated -- institutions that are established, and so on -- as elements that are matters of concession to agitation, but things that should be deliberately, and by conscious initiative, speeded up. As a great English statesman once said: the great day for England will be, he said, when she is able to lay down her burdens and let other people rule themselves.

In the context of Trusteeship, this is even more the case. (We think the epitome, the great achievement of the Administering Power is the day when it reports to the United Nations that the period of its administration -- of its wardship, its stewardship -- is now over, and therefore it has achieved what it set out to do. 3

(Now good government, institutions reforms -- all the amenities an administration may bring in -- are essential in this process; but to our mind they are incidental, because we are an old-fashioned, old-world people who still believe that good government is no substitute for self-government. There can be no good government without self-government; and therefore we have to judge every step in this matter by that yardstick -- namely, to what extent is it meant and calculated to bring about effectively the unfoldment of people, and the achievement by people of their full independence.

Perhaps this particular aspect of our approach is not nearly so applicable to the British Cameroons as to some other Territories to which we shall have to refer later on.

Now, at this stage, if the Chairman does not think -- and if the parties concerned do not think -- that it is an infringement of Article 2 (7) of the Charter with which you are all familiar, may I go beyond the field of our own rôle and say how grateful we are to the special representative of the United Kingdom -- and I hope Sir Alan Burns will not think that I am interfering in the affairs of the United Kingdom when I say how grateful we are to Brigadier Gibbons for the very frank answers he has given; and, what is more, if I may say so, for the temper of those answers, which were not intended to stonewall the question or the questioner, but appeared to be a co-operative venture in the appreciation of these problems. It is true, he has not in any way conceded the point of view that might have been implied in questions very often, but at any rate we feel that in these answers it is not suggested that the inquiry is a matter of interference but is something that is a part of the Trusteeship arrangements and will probably lead to helpful results.

If I may take another moment, I would like -- both for national and personal reasons -- to pay tribute to Sir Alan Burns who, after many years of very arduous service in the cause of peoples of this kind, and

having earned his well-merited retirement has come back to this problem as a labour of love. This does not mean that we always agree with him -- so far as that is concerned we would never entirely agree with an English person; it would be wrong to do so -- they would think there was something wrong with us. In fact, in our system of parliamentary governments we live by opposition and by criticism -- and if it ceases to be, then government ceases to be.

Now, with these preliminary observations I shall address myself -- on the pattern that you have laid down, and as far as one can confine oneself -- very narrowly and strictly to the problem of the British Cameroons.

Now, on the political side, having said that, one at once finds that it is impossible to do so; and I want to disarm everybody at once by saying that I am not going to refer to the French Cameroons.

The British-administered Territory is administered as part of the British colony of Nigeria, and, in a sense, it is part of the West African colonial set-up of the British Empire and -- in a still larger sense -- of the whole of their colonial system. We have not the advantage of information before us of the various developments -- the more recent developments -- that are taking place in this part of the world; because it is really not possible to make correct appreciations and assessments -- or even helpful criticisms -- without full knowledge of the situation. At the same time, I recognize the limitations of the British representatives on this Council, which is concerned only with Trust Territories. It is inherent in this proposition that the advances in Nigeria -- the advances in the West African dominions -- the hindrances to their advance, or the fears and suspicions entertained on either side about that advance, relating to those institutions and their limitations -- are integral to an understanding of the Cameroons.

For myself, it is impossible to deal with this problem fully unless I could know what was in the mind of the United Kingdom Secretary of State for the Colonies with regard to the whole of the Nigerian territory; I say that from experience with another part of Africa.

Having said that much, the British Cameroons appear to us to be administered with a strict adherence to the idea that this Territory is not an integral part of British territory. It is not part of British soil;

the citizens are not United Kingdom nationals; they do not sit at Westminster; in fact, they are not dark-complexioned Englishmen. They are inhabitants of a potentially independent State. That is recognized, and the fact that the position of the Administering Authority -- as set out in the Charter -- is to take the responsibility for administration; and, as the Trusteeship Agreement states, that they shall be "administered as an integral part" -- not that they shall be an integral part, but that they shall be administered as an integral part. In other words, it is a problem of administrative mechanics. We understand the position fully, because it would be quite impossible in these Trust Territory areas, where there are small pieces of territory, to set up a completely new apparatus of administration which would be either economical or efficient. Therefore, the political institutions that are set up at the present moment are integrated with the Nigerian territory -- and I use the word "integrated" with certain qualifications.

Now so far we are on common ground, I hope.

/Then we come to the next

Then we come to the next part of it. We examine these institutions and, while there is no doubt that there is an attempt to retain the individuality of the Cameroonian, north or south, we find that in the southern Territory there are some thirteen Cameroonians in the legislature and one Cameroonian in the executive division. In the north it is three in the legislature and, I believe, none in the executive division. I will not, at the present moment, go into the functions of the legislature or the executive, but will deal mainly with the representation.

I think that the United Kingdom, the Administering Authority, would be entirely on a safe ground if it were to say -- as no doubt it would -- that this reflects the proportion of the populations. That is to say that the percentages of Cameroonians in the North and the South Cameroons, in relation to that of Nigeria, are in this proportion of 13 to 80 -- or whatever the figures may be -- in the legislatures. That is mathematically a correct answer, but I submit that politically it is not a correct answer. If that were a correct answer in the United Nations, my own country would probably have about 1,200 representatives as opposed to 1 from Costa Rica. We cannot, in a federation or union of this kind, go by any mathematical proportions. The real test is: will the Cameroonian element make a sufficient impact -- I do not say a decisive impact -- on the collective group of legislators. The answer is that if you have, among 80 people, 13 Cameroonians who may not be united, my fear is that either -- if they are very clever -- they will be, like the Irish Party in the British Parliament in the nineteenth century, the decisive factor, or they may be just very decorative or, if they are not decorative, they may be only contributing what is called "nuisance value" in politics.

Here I am only thinking aloud. I do not know how it works out and I submit this to the greater experience and wisdom of the British representatives.

Therefore, in any future set up, in our view -- and we say this with a full sense of our responsibility to make constructive suggestions -- any unified organism of this character -- I do not mean unified in any sort of unitary sense -- should provide for these people the capacity to make a Cameroonian impact, not merely in a sense of proportionate representation. Our view, therefore, is that these men, unless they are very outstanding, unless they are able to trade with some of the other minor parties in the legislatures, are not likely to make that impact. To a certain extent that perhaps may be remedied

if in the North and the South Cameroons, or jointly, there were separate organizations -- assemblies, legislatures or whatever they may be -- with considerable power without whose assistance and co-operation all Nigerian-Cameroonian legislation would become ineffective. That is to say if in this federation or confederation the final consent of these Territories is necessary, that perhaps would be a way. But it is not our business to suggest the details of constitutional solutions. We wish, if we may, to think aloud on this principle: that either the impact made in this more or less unitary structure must be adequate and not merely reflecting the numerical proportion -- and of course we appreciate the difficulty, because the Nigerians will have something to say about it -- or, if that is not possible, then the only way is to speed up the processes of what is called State autonomy because that would enable the Cameroonians to have their quid pro quo in many matters and also give them the field for particular exercise which is absolutely necessary if they are working towards independence.

I do not want to take any more time on this problem, large as it may be. I should like to consider two other propositions. One is with regard to franchise -- and I hope Sir Alan Burns will bear with me in what I have to say about this.

As Indian people, we remain very unconvinced about all the arguments that are brought forward by any country about enfranchising everybody. I think it is useful to recall that it is only when people have power that they will be educated. After great agitations about the reform acts in England, a great statesman sat back and said: "Now we have given these people the vote, let us sit down to educate our masters." It is only when they can dictate, to a certain extent, that they will get what may be called the dividends of government.

Now, in the Cameroons -- I am rather confused about this, and I am sure Brigadier Gibbons will help us later on -- we are told that everybody -- that is, every male -- pays a tax, and every person who pays a tax has the right to vote. Then, presumably, there is universal franchise so far as the males are concerned. I should like to know, from the answer the United Kingdom gives, whether this analysis is correct? If everyone pays a tax -- we will review the taxation

later on -- and if every tax-payer is voting, then so far as the males are concerned there must be universal franchise. We submit that irrespective of any tax payment every male individual who, in certain circumstances, would be called upon to carry the burdens of communal life -- as for example, we have heard of the case of collective fines, or if, unfortunately, other vicissitudes of international life provided for in the Charter should affect those regions -- would have responsibilities to carry. They are tillers of the soil, they perform some work, and we are not able to understand why the payment of a tax at once brings about political knowledge, political discrimination, political capacity or anything else. Money is not the measure of social responsibility, and the more we appreciate in the world that men cannot be bought and sold in terms of money, that they cannot be measured in terms of money -- whether they be countries or peoples -- the better for our civilization.

Therefore, this property qualification, which seems to dominate the whole of the franchise system is, in our view, a backward solution. It is a move backwards; it does not represent enlightenment and it is not setting a good example to the future independent Cameroonian.

Secondly, it is in the interest of the advancement of education to foster the acquisition of craft skills by the populations of the Cameroons. It would be in the interests of the populations of the Cameroons if literacy, the knowledge of crafts or, if you like, participation in smaller units of government or any other kind of social duty were part of the qualification for franchise. If that basis is accepted, then it will be found that there will be no one about the age of eighteen, twenty-one, or whatever we like to prescribe, who is not entitled to vote.

That takes us to the next and the most controversial question: the enfranchisement of women. And here I think we have the responsibility to speak quite frankly and freely about this.

I think the restriction on the enfranchisement of women is unjustifiable under any circumstances. There is no reason whatsoever for discrimination on grounds of sex against women. It is contrary to the Charter; it is contrary to the genius of these people; it is contrary to the facts of the case as they exist in these Territories.

If it is true that logically one must take the tax-paying position, then we must take into account the contribution made by women in the rearing of a family, in the maintenance of a household, in the conduct of agricultural operations, for which they are not remunerated.

/Women are like

Women are like the parson's wife -- they are unpaid labour. We must estimate, we must find some rational estimate of their capacity, and perhaps as has been done in certain cases, every woman who is either the wife or a near relative of a man with voting capacity should be entitled to vote.

This is not merely an ethical or logical principle. I think in any country or any community, so-called primitive or otherwise, the present and future advancement depends upon the status that women have in that community. My country has extremely strong views on this matter and we think that the British Government, in the fraternal relations we have with them, should look at this aspect of the question and see it in operation in our country.

I think it is pertinent to recall that the restriction on women exercising the vote does not really lie in these so-called primitive and backward tribes. If I may say so, and I hope it will not be misunderstood, it is a part of the European attitude towards women. It is part of Victorian colonialism. It has nothing to do with us. I will give you an example.

In 1919, the British Parliament legislated for India and declined to give the franchise to women. Under pressure from the women and men of India it said: leave the matter to the Indians; and in twelve months' time, the franchise was conferred upon women. Today, all our women vote on equal terms with men, without any distinction whatsoever, and we have not found that this has led either to political irresponsibility or a lack of political capacity or anything of that character.

In the African communities -- if I am not mistaken; again I turn to Brigadier Gibbons with his greater knowledge -- we have often been told women are earners, they are toilers. If people can work they should also be allowed to vote. Women are owners of property. I read somewhere in this report that women do all the heavy agricultural work. For all these reasons and also to bring into public life that degree of equilibrium and balance that exists in nature, and in order that half the population of a country should not be disenfranchised, it is desirable to extend the franchise to women and it will be a great contribution, by that example, in honouring the purposes and principles of the conventions on the status of women, human rights and everything else that we adopt here.

Next, I want to deal with the political question of the problem of local government. I must confess that we are not happy at all about the situation, as submitted in the report in regard to local government. We are happy and we pay a tribute for the attempt that is being made; but the attempt is small in quantity because the whole of its initiative is from the top and not the bottom. Here again, our experience is a guide in this matter.

Some of these committees are constituted of officials, schoolmasters and others. Everyone knows that in these communities a schoolmaster is not much different from a government official. We have some experience of them in that particular context. Therefore we think -- particularly in Africa, where tribal life, where communal life, where family life is an integral part of the society -- local government is the simplest form and it is a very natural form that comes in handy. It is true they will make mistakes, but I do not suppose that there is anyone around this table about whose governments and whose institutions it can be said they do not make mistakes continually.

In India, the British Government have the picture of both. In one of our provinces today we have 9,000 local administrations, where every man and woman votes. They go to the polls, there are no riots, there is the election of the executive and, what is more, these units have judicial functions and we have not heard anywhere that those judicial functions are wrongly exercised. Therefore I ask the Administering Powers to look into this question and see for the sake of the rest of the Trust Territories, in the general interest of these principles, if advance cannot be made in this direction. If it is the desire -- and I have no doubt at all that it is a genuine desire of the Administering Authority in this case -- that the British Cameroons should, whatever be the final form, advance the self-determination and independence of these people, then its sure basis is the franchise which is exercised. It is not only a question of conferring what is a legitimate right; it is the school of politics, the school of responsibility. It at the same time provides the remedy for the cry, sometimes expressed, sometimes not, that there are not enough people to deal with the posts.

And here, is the field of opportunity, the field of endeavour and also the field for the hope of achievement.

We would like to see in the next report that comes from the Administering Authority, a bold - and I do not mean going from precedent to precedent - a very bold attempt to see that the entire Territory comes under the beneficial effects of the extension of local government. By local government I do not merely mean the district forms of the higher authorities at the top, but at its lowest level. Once it has been done at the lowest level and done not for the purpose of denying other political powers, it will be bound to percolate in the shortest possible time to the higher levels.

There is one other point in connexion with political issues, and that is with regard to administrative services. I, personally, would have no hesitation and would not be one to be in any way less than extremely generous to the services of British administrators in dependent territories. We have said very hard things about them and there have been some very bad ones among them; but, on the whole, they have performed services for remunerations which are far lower than they would get in other places and have earned the respect of local populations. They have often carried out a duty where the interests of the people had to be served as against their aspirations. They have done a very difficult task. Therefore, I yield to none, in praise of men who go out in what is usually called the "wilds of Africa" - or whatever it is called - in climates that are unknown, to take their families to far-off regions and who very often with extremely inadequate or non-specialized staff had to carry out and make decisions in contexts where angels fear to tread. Therefore, I yield to none in my appreciation of them.

But the fact remains, and we were rather saddened to hear from Brigadier Gibbons, or was it Sir Alan Burns, that the educated Cameroonian is not coming into the higher civil service. I am not surprised. We had the same problem. The educated Indian, with exceptions, did not want to go into civil service, because he did not want to have his education merely as a decoration for subservience.

The terms of service and all the glory and honour that go with it; the degree of self-respect and the feeling that one is serving the country should go with it - all these things were not possible forty or fifty years ago. With

the enlightenment that has come and the newer view that is taken, even of colonial rule, this should be possible. It is a sad state of affairs if educated Cameroonians cannot be drawn into the service of the Cameroons, because that means that the Cameroons can never be independent.

After all, whether we like civil servants or not, they are a necessary evil - I am sorry - they are necessary. You cannot run a country without administration, and especially in terms of independence, when a tribal polity develops into national polity, unless there is a national civil service free from corruption, able to take a national view of things, with that degree of self-abnegation that comes from total devotion to principles and causes apart from the smaller personalities that surround centres of authority, it would be quite impossible to establish this position.

Therefore, from this point of view, we would like to ask the Administering Authority whether greater efforts could not be made in this direction: administrative training centres on a larger scale than now, not for the purposes of the smaller officials but for the higher; greater contact between the European administrator and the so-called educated classes and the classes that would like to be educated; establishment of schools of the type that are provided for the civil servant of the metropolitan country; and what is more, the inculcation of the feeling of the lower ranks of the service that they are not a depressed class, they are not what used to be called in India the mere "babu", that is, the pen-pusher who does the work while the other fellow gets the salary.

/I do not know.

I do not know whether it is possible to find any method of transfer from the lower to the upper division automatically as has happened in the case of other civil services. Whatever it may be, if it continues to be a feature of Cameroonian administration under Trusteeship that the best of Cameroonian talent cannot be drawn into the public service -- not the whole of it but a desirable proportion -- then there is certainly something wrong with it. It is all a question of quantity. If the number of educated Cameroonians is so small and they are wanted by cocoa planters or other commercial enterprises for high salaries then it is quite natural that they do not go into the civil service. We have no difficulty in finding people for the civil service; our difficulty is to find posts for them. If there are large numbers of sufficiently educated people, then this will follow.

Here, perhaps I might interpolate an observation which I was really going to use when we came to ^{the} educational question. There were, thanks to the efforts of the Colonial Government and I suppose to the generosity of the British Treasury, about 1,500 Nigerians in the United Kingdom universities last year. I believe there is nearly twice that number this year and, having a great deal to do with students, I made some investigations and discovered that the number of Cameroonians among them was perhaps not more than a dozen. That is confirmed by the report. Now, if Nigeria and the Cameroons are being administered as one territory and what is more if the Cameroons are, in theory, to be an independent country totally outside any allegiance to British authority one day, it stands to reason that these men should have the opportunity of going away to universities. If the revenue of the country does not produce the amount of money that is required as it appears it cannot, and if the Administering Authority cannot be relied upon to put the burden on its own taxpayers in its homeland, then it is necessary for the Cameroons to turn to international authority and to other bodies in which we hear so much talk about the development of under-developed countries and technical knowledge, skill, and so on.

I think I would like to leave the political questions at this stage and take up one or two economic matters. I have no desire, particularly as the time is passing quickly, to go into statistical tables about per capita income and taxation and so on. I hope that the Administering Authority will not mind

my doing this and really I have no alternative because there is only one heading dealing with economics and finance together with taxation.

First of all, I want to raise a point which is equally applicable to the two Cameroons, and that is the basis of customs revenue. These territories have not yet been established as two separate nations; they do not have separate existence under international law. What right could the Administering Authorities have, in anticipation of what might happen, to divide them into two customs unions? The Trusteeship Agreement confers upon them the right to integrate with the Nigerian Territory for customs purposes. But if the idea is that there should be no predetermination with regard to their unity -- and on this my Government keeps an open mind at the present moment -- then the imposition of these customs unions as between the two Territories is to divide a people and, apart from dividing a people who are perhaps already divided into tribal groups, to prevent that degree of amity and fraternity growing up between the two populations.

I was interested to hear Brigadier Gibbons say what is an absolute truth when he said that customs are the friend of the smugglers. That is so in these places. He referred to French brandy and British textiles all over the world. They are the friend of the smugglers. Now, I would like to ask the Council to consider this question frankly. Who pays these duties? On whom does the incidence of the customs duty fall? On the consumer. Then why is it necessary to transfer the hostility and all the political factors attached to it to somebody else? After all, if the importer pays the customs duty, ultimately it is passed on to the consumer. If there must be taxation -- and it appears that there must be -- then it is more logical, more truthful, more wholesome that it should be levied on the consumer himself in some form or other. But, having said that much, it is a rather regrettable state of affairs that -- and I speak from memory -- out of something like one and a half million pounds of revenue, about half of it comes from customs duties. I stand subject to correction about the absolute accuracy of these figures. That converts the country into a purely trade operation. It reflects vastly on the whole incidence of revenue and on the economic development of the country. I would go the whole way and ^{agree} with the observation made or implied by the Administering Authority that money must be found and I do not think the United Nations has any right

to look to the Administering Authority, whose colony this is not but was taken on as public duty, to find the resources, unless it be under some Colombo Plan or other scheme of aid, to find the money that is required for the economic development and the administration of this place. But there is no evidence -- in fact, all the evidence is to the contrary -- that there are not enough resources in these Territories which enable much vaster revenues to be reaped. There is no evidence that the per capita income or the incidence of taxation should remain at its present level. I will leave that point and go on to another.

The economic life of this country -- and again I would like this observation to be accepted in the spirit in which it is made -- ^{basis of the} the/economy of this country is strictly colonial. That is to say, the populations are hewers of wood and drawers of water. It belongs to the nineteenth century colonial system where they make the raw materials and export them with the result that if there is a fall in the price of bananas or if people stop eating bananas for some reason or other these people will starve. There is no reciprocal basis for the country's economy, even self-sufficiency may be ruled out. Banana countries have no future except in terms of dependency on metropolitan countries and if this country is going to be independent we have to reverse this process. India is no longer growing raw cotton in order to fill the needs of other countries and buying manufactured goods at a higher price. I am not for a moment saying that every country can become industrial or that every country should abandon its agriculture, but the economy of this country is a survival from the colonial days. I do not say it is a colonial imposition. I think this matter requires rethinking, particularly in regard to cocoa cultivation and so on, where the whole ^{of} industry becomes a vertical combination inside the country and is not spread out horizontally and cut in segments so that the trading part goes to somebody else and the tilling part goes to the local inhabitants. This is a basic defect in the whole of this economy and is understandable because it is historically derived from the older colonial system and if this Territory, either in parts or all together, is going to be independent it is necessary that its economy should not be so vulnerable to the consuming propensities or the political action of other Powers in the future.

Another point that has to be raised in relation to the economy of the country is the question of subsidiary industries. We have found that it is not only impossible but unwise to convert a vast agricultural community -- a community like ours -- into a country of factories. We could not take these vast millions of populations into factories and what is more it may be undesirable. I do not want to labour this point of principle, but it appears that in a community where the majority of the people are agricultural labourers subject to seasonal employment or small peasants eking out a living with their rudimentary methods of agriculture it is absolutely necessary that they should have what is called a subsidiary occupation. That great and wise man, Mahatma Gandhi, when he introduced the spinning wheel into India and people laughed at him, was introducing a great principle which has now become part of our economy. That is, there is an enormous amount of time that is unuseable because, partly due to this kind of agricultural enterprise itself and partly due to the fact the development of technique is slow, there is in our agricultural communities, arising either from the village economies or tribal economies, an enormous amount of unemployment which is seasonal, either unemployment for eleven months of the year or four months of the year. And what is more, with the system that obtains, as is shown in these reports, the return to the actual cultivator is small.

/Therefore it is necessary

Therefore it is necessary -- if he is to become a taxpayer, or be able to send a child to school, or if the standard of living is to be raised -- that there should be subsidiary occupations. Those subsidiary occupations would also become the basis of the rural industrialization of the country which would help it to develop into a self-sufficient economy.

There are observations in this report with regard to the conditions of labour. I want to deal with this problem very briefly. The Administering Authority is sympathetic to the organization of labour in trade unions, but it is shown that the wages are lower than in countries like India, before independence, and also that the security of employment and the social benefits that go with industrial labour are lacking. The special representative told us quite frankly that it was not possible for him to give us the amount of profit reaped by private enterprise in the Cameroons. But this is an occasion to pay tribute to the work of the Cameroons Development Corporation which is an economic development in the right direction, and as time goes on we hope the Cameroonians will take part in it and introduce into industry both on the national level, as on the industrial level, the principles of self-government and partnership.

But apart from that there is little doubt that large profits must be drawn from the raw produce -- whether it be bananas or cocoa -- by private enterprise of the metropolitan or other countries. We have no means of knowing how much of it is plowed back. We have no means of knowing what obligations are placed upon these people. It is quite true that they are enlightened employers, as employers go. It is quite true that the five companies provide for education, but when all is said and done, considering that the income of this Territory is derived largely from this kind of enterprise, it is only reasonable to ask to what extent they are subjected to the levy to which they would be subjected in their own home territories and to what extent it is being plowed back into the population, who are the real producers of this wealth. That question one has to ask.

Secondly, I want to make a reference to the plantations. And here may I say, Mr. President, if this is the correct occasion, that I would like to express my regret -- and I hope you will communicate it to the Secretary-General -- that during the debate on this problem neither the representative of the

International Labour Office, nor of the Food and Agriculture Organization nor of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, nor of the World Health Organization is present here. I think it is vital that these organizations should not just be listeners and make notes -- should not be amateurs who can produce colourful pamphlets on this matter -- but who have a great initiative in this matter. It is all well and good to talk about the development of under-developed populations and independent countries, but these are their direct responsibility -- the direct responsibility of the International Labour Office to know a great deal more about plantation labour. We have some experience of plantation labour and labour conditions on plantations are the worst conditions that exist anywhere in the world. They are the remnants of the old slave-labour days. I am not saying they should be abolished; all I am saying is this: if you must have plantations, they must be under conditions which guarantee home lives to the people; which guarantee that there is no tied cottage, that ^{there} is the freedom to strike and there is the freedom of political organization. I would like, Mr. President, if you consider my submission correct, that it should be conveyed to the Secretary-General that we deeply regret the absence of these representatives at a debate of this character. After all, the Trusteeship Council is entitled to the assistance and to the courtesy of the other organs of the United Nations, because in the observations I am going to make on the constructive side, reference to these organizations is necessary.

From here on I will deal with education. I think it is futile to speak in terms of compulsory, free education, all in one day, because I am sure the Administering Authority, quite rightly, would ask who was going to pay for it. Now, that is the problem which the United Nations must face and I speak, perhaps not with the degree of responsibility one is expected to have, but I think it is far more important to provide literacy for all instead of culture for the few. Therefore, UNESCO's first function must be to see that there is not an illiterate person in the world, if possible; and, so far as illiteracy is concerned, the distinguished representative of the United Kingdom will pardon me if I suggest that it would be worthwhile to study the very difficult efforts we are making with regard to the liquidation of illiteracy.

The Government of India, in association with the other governments, set a target of sixteen years in which to liquidate illiteracy. At the time of our independence, 12-1/2 per cent of our populations were literate. We think that in the sixteen years from 1947, that is by 1963, there should be no illiterate persons and up to this time, the scheme has gone ahead of schedule, and, however much Administering Authorities dislike targets, there is no way of dealing with social problems of this kind except by setting a target. Unless we say that before such and such a time this thing has to be liquidated, there will be no way of dealing with it, and I think the Administering Authority is entitled to come to the United Nations and its various organizations to put forward proposals for international effort in order to liquidate illiteracy as well as other problems in these Territories. But on the whole, even from the smaller point of view, there are some statistics here which are not, if I may say so, comforting.

Compared to 1949, the 1952 expenditure has multiplied by about 120 per cent, but the bulk of that multiplication is absorbed by the salaries of education officers and not by those of teachers. The education officer is a very essential person, but he is a person of superior service who directs, and the teachers' salaries still remain small and so does the expenditure for the maintenance of schools. However, that is not the main point. The main point is that in this Territory of, I believe, one and a half million people, the expenditure on education for 1,430,000 people is £1 to eight persons a year. Then I look at the other table very kindly provided by the Administering Authority, which is even more depressing, that is, the estimated expenditure on development, that is what is going to be done in the future about it, and there the total amount to be expended on education is £30,000; and what is more, when other things which are tied up with education are considered -- other aspects of economic development, such as fisheries -- the amount comes to £900, so that the expenditures on development and welfare are very small quantities, no doubt due to the fact that the income of this Territory is very small. So I submit that it is a vicious circle. It is not possible to obtain this income except by development, and you cannot have development without spending money. That is what it really amounts to, and this figure of £30,000 represents a decrease by £10,000 on the previous year.

/Then we come to schools.

Then we come to schools. In 1948 -- that is, before the Trusteeship system -- under the colonial system, there were 276 schools; in 1952, there were 336 schools. Teacher training, which is a basic part of education, is a yardstick for measuring whether education is increasing or decreasing and, in 1952, there was a decline in the number of teachers who were trained, and the large number of teachers that were trained amounts to -- five -- schools. The same thing applies to vocational education. Now, these comments are not meant to sound like "I told you so" but, rather, they are meant to throw into relief the immensity of the problem that remains to be solved; I feel sure that in a territory of this kind the Administering Authority which has colonial responsibility in the neighbouring region and all over the world could not be expected to bring these things to their fulfilment without making them an international problem. They are entitled to say: "We do not want illiteracy in our Trust Territory, and we can help this situation within such and such an amount of time; what are all these organizations for?" And, as I said before and I will repeat -- I think it will bear repeating -- it is far more important that the populations of the world should be literate than that a few should be cultured.

I was looking through the report for some other element of statistics on education and that there is a wastage of education is one of our problems. You can send children to schools -- and the census office informs us that, with regard to education, there are so many children in schools this year, more than the previous year and that looks very good -- but the question is: what is the net amount of education? How many of them lapse back into illiteracy? And that is the position of the relationship of the educational problem to the economic situation.

The representative of El Salvador, I believe, raised the question of free education, of inability to pay fees, and so forth. I would like to hear the views of Brigadier Gibbons and Sir Alan Burns later on with regard to this. Based on our experience, it is not so much a question of fees; the fees probably could be arranged or provided by the Administering Authority. It is mainly because a child cannot be sent to school because he or she is a breadwinner; because the economy of a country would have to be altered so that the children of 8, 9, 10 or 12 years of age are not required to work in the fields. That is why, in our economies, education has been backward; it is not possible to place a child in school because he or she is needed elsewhere. So, in most cases, at the age of 9, they lapse from school into illiteracy.

Therefore, it is fundamentally a social and economic problem and it is tied up with the entire question of the standard of life in a country and it is very true that when that economic problem will be given priority for solution, then of course there will be compulsory and free education. But, compulsory and free education by itself, without the possibility of the child first of all being able to attend to what is being said, because he has a hungry stomach, is our problem. You cannot educate hungry children. And the parents would not send these children to schools unless, on the one hand, the schools are very near their homes -- and that is much more so in such territories as Africa than with us, unless the distance is short -- and, secondly, they are not being taken away from their function as tools of the economy, that is to say, the channels of economic life. I am not saying that that should be so. In other words, the displacement of child labour would become necessary and today we are ripened enough by experience to know that this is not just merely a matter of passing legislation; you can pass all the legislation you like but, still, the problem would remain unless the economic and social basis of this situation is changed.

Now I would refer to the problems that are called social and, before I forget it, I want first of all to take up the problem of collective punishment. I remain entirely unconvinced by the answers given in this matter. The entire notion and the system of collective punishment is reprehensible to civilization; it is the punishment of the innocent with the guilty; it is the evasion of the principles of law, of discovery of guilt and it is the negation of reward or recognition for the law-abiding. In other words, it is a cheap method of administering justice and it is very much like Aesop's fable: if it is not you, it must be your grandfather who made the water muddy. We have lived under this system of collective fines; we know what it means: it means the violation of the sanctity of people's homes, their small properties, their self-respect -- their self-respect, first of all, leads to a reign of terror; I do not say that this would be the case in the British Cameroons; but its sequel in difficult circumstances is a reign of terror, it is police rule and it places in the hand of a local policeman the kind of power which should not be placed in the hands of any human being, particularly in the hands of a local official.

Collective fines are reprehensible and, at some stage, we hope that we will have instructions from our Government to deal with this matter especially and particularly; it is one of those things under which we have lived and we know

where it bites. It is not in consonance with the Principles of the Charter; it is a violation of human rights. It is totally contrary to the law of the Administering Authority and, I venture to say, it is totally contrary to tribal law. All tribal law asks is: a tooth for a tooth. Primitive justice is probably more just than our civilized justice. But whatever it may be, when it is asked: if the Bali tribe loses its property, has it not to be found somewhere? The answer is "yes" -- but not by fining somebody else; it could equally be asked: if the Bali tribe loses its property, should we not go and plunder somebody else? Now, why did the Bali tribe lose its property?

I refuse to believe -- and I hope the Council shares my opinion -- that it is because of the criminal tendencies of a tribe, and I forget what that other tribe is called; I believe it is again an economic question: some people do not have enough land, or enough something else, or it may be that they are not sufficiently hard-working on the land that they have. But it is essentially a social and economic problem which cannot be cured by punitive methods. Therefore, the answer is a gradual transition where the cause of aggression -- that is, the lust for land, the lust for goods -- is removed. But, instead of that, the imposition of collective fines is a barbaric form; it is a violation of all principles of natural justice, of imposing punishments upon innocent people, of disregarding the self-respect of individuals, laying their homes open to violation, bringing^a sense of social insecurity and, what is more, laying the way open for what in certain circumstances would be a reign of terror. It will have political consequences; I feel certain -- not necessarily in the British Cameroons -- wherever the conditions are such that political agitation is -- and that is what happened in India -- not suitable to the ruling of the Administration, then there will be room for collective fines.

Now, the principle of collective fines, once accepted, can be applied to a great many other things. For example, a public meeting or demonstration takes place. The Government says it shall not be held, with good reason perhaps. I understand it is difficult to get hold of all the people -- you can't count all the people who are going to a meeting -- and so a fine is imposed on the whole village. Unless this principle is removed -- and it is a very vile principle -- and I am sorry to say that while no grief is felt on this behalf by the special representative, the general answer which we got from the distinguished representative of the United Kingdom was: I have nothing more to say. With

all due respect, I say that that is hardly the kind of answer that he should have given me.

Now I come to my final point and that is with regard to the General Assembly resolution. This matter has already been dealt with in the questions and answers. I believe this Trusteeship Council has the responsibility in this regard and I shall deal with this responsibility first in relation to the Administering Authority and in relation to the Trusteeship Council itself. So far as the Administering Authority is concerned, it is bound by the spirit of Articles 6 and 12 of the Trusteeship Agreement; it is the duty of the Administering Authority to do everything that is possible to end the day of Trusteeship -- that is its greatest achievement, as I said once before. But so far as we are concerned, I decline to accept the view that was propounded yesterday that the Assembly's resolutions are recommendations and no one is bound by them.

/Those who are familiar with-

Those who are familiar with the proceedings of the General Assembly and of the United Nations are well aware of the fact that for good reasons -- that is to say, because the United Nations is an assembly of sovereign States and because we are not a world parliament -- it is not possible to pass resolutions of a mandatory character. Our Parliaments have to ratify them. Recommendations are in that context. The Assembly does not make recommendations to its own subordinate organizations, and Article 35 of the Charter is entirely clear on this matter. Article 35 says:

"The functions of the United Nations with regard to trusteeship agreements for all areas not designated as strategic, including the approval of the terms of the trusteeship agreements and of their alteration or amendment, shall be exercised by the General Assembly.

"2. The Trusteeship Council, operating under the authority of the General Assembly, shall assist..."

So there is no question of where the position of the Trusteeship Council is. It is quite true that we cannot make the Administering Authorities do anything because they are sovereign States, which have taken on the responsibility, but in all these matters we have to do it by persuasion, we have to do it by argument. But the way of dealing with it is not to say the Assembly can pass what resolutions it likes, we are not bound by them -- I think this is an entirely improper attitude towards this matter. I would therefore suggest that we do approach the Administering Authorities, that we do urge upon them to try and set a target date. We are not for a moment suggesting that the target date could not be altered or speeded up. Brigadier Gibbons, quite rightly, had apprehensions that things sometimes go more speedily in Africa than one imagines, why tie yourself up? Well, that is a very good thought. It is not necessary to tie yourself up in that way. No one would object to a Trust Territory attaining its independence more quickly than the due date. No employer complains when work is finished ahead of schedule, provided the quality is good. Therefore, it is not intended to be a restriction in that way. And, with great respect, the members around this table should be regarded as people who have some experience of these matters.

Here again, if the representative of the United Kingdom will forgive me, I would refer him back to the example set by his own country. In Ceylon, in India and even in West Africa, it was found wise, practical and indeed sensible to

set target dates. I would not mention names, but in at least one country they avoided a revolution by making up their mind and proclaiming to the world "that is the day we go". Then other people said "Don't go so quickly". The setting of a target date is not an immature, amateurish desire on the part of the General Assembly. It is a well established practice in the march towards independence by dependent countries. It has very wholesome features about it, it pays good dividends. The United Kingdom, which is the party concerned in this matter, has experience along these lines, and we beg of the United Kingdom to draw on that experience. So far as we are concerned, such educational facilities as our country has, such experience as our country has, and the close relations which the United Kingdom has with us, are all available for them to draw upon, and we approach the whole of this question purely with the attitude and in the spirit of constructive endeavour.

I want to repeat what I said in the beginning. We look upon the role of the Administering Authority as something that it has assumed for itself. These Territories were under a League of Nations Mandate; they could not have come under Trusteeship Agreements except with the consent of the present Administering Authority. We have a very bad example in the United Nations of one State which will not agree to this. The people who sit round this table are those who have agreed. First of all, therefore, it is a voluntary act. Secondly, it is an act of administration undertaken as a duty and carried out not, as in the cases of colonial territories, with the background of colonial aggrandizement or of colonial profits, but on behalf of the United Nations. That background always persists, and it is very important, therefore, for those of us who have freed ourselves from colonial rule, to keep on warning others not to let the colonial atmosphere get into this, and therefore to see the speeding up of the British Cameroons peoples to their role of self-government.

Finally, we are called upon to say something on the question of integration. We would like to say very little about this matter, and I confess that the evidence even from one source is very contradictory. On the one hand, we are told there is political life; on the other hand, we are told there is not. On the one hand we are told that the Northern Cameroons have been playing their cards very well with their three votes -- they are able politicians -- on the other hand, we are told they are backward. Frankly, and it may sound very naïve, but I do not think there

are really any backward people. The most backward people are those who call others backward. Therefore, on the question of integration, all we would submit -- and again we submit with all humility -- is to request the United Kingdom to draw on its own experience. You cannot in the modern world disregard the urges of nationalism, and the only way is to harness that nationalism to the more constructive endeavours. If we can see the Cameroons as one united Cameroon, or if we could see them as integral parts, North and South, in the Nigerian Federation, we do not know. The only principle upon which we think there can be no compromise is that there should be self-determination of peoples; that the Administering Authority is committed -- not only in the Cameroon, but everywhere else -- and we have no doubt that they will adhere to it. I just want to repeat that we are pragmatic in this matter; we are concerned as to the future of the Cameroons being such as will assist in their economic development and in their political security.

We are also concerned that there is no gerrymandering of their territories; that the backwardness of one is not argued as an impediment to the progress of the whole. We have no objection, if the people of the Cameroons should be agreeable, that they should be allied to the Nigerian territory in one form or another, but we would resist as far as we can any attempt to do so against the will of those people, of which there is no evidence, or as part of a Nigerian or a British colony affiliated to the other one.

The record of the United Kingdom in West Africa as a colonial Power stands in healthy contrast to some other places and some other peoples. We are happy in the progress that is ^{being} made in West Africa towards the independence of the African peoples. We look forward to the day when the neighbouring territory of the Gold Coast will be a Member of the United Nations, not in the very far future, but in the matter of a very few years, or even less, when it will take its rightful place in the fraternity of our own communities. And we have no doubt at all that this evolution of the Gold Coast as an independent country, and alongside it the evolution of Nigeria and the success of the endeavours of all liberal-minded people in the metropolitan country and in the Territory in Central Africa, ^{which} will prevent it from developing unhealthy doctrines, will all be spurs in the way of the attainment of independence by the Cameroonian people.

On the question of unification, therefore, we do not shut our door against the idea of an all-in-Cameroons State, if it is so desired, but on the other hand to us it is far more important that people should be free and independent, that their economies should develop and that their consent should be given. With great humility, therefore, I submit to the United Kingdom, through you, Mr. President, that the one way by which these people will stay with Nigeria and find their freedom in that way, perhaps, more quickly than any other, will be by their feeling that by so remaining they will lose nothing of their self-respect or of their own ethos, none of their prospects of advancement and of liberty.

ACTING

The/PRESIDENT (interpretation from Spanish): In accordance with the desire expressed by the distinguished representative of India, the President will point out to the Secretariat that Mr. Menon has regretted the absence of the representatives of the specialized agencies.

The meeting was suspended at 3.55 p.m. and resumed at 4.20 p.m.

The ACTING PRESIDENT (interpretation from Spanish): The meeting is resumed.

Before calling upon the representative of the Soviet Union, I would like to state that immediately after having recessed the meeting a few moments ago, the representative of UNESCO came up to me to say that he and certain other representatives of the specialized agencies are generally present here in the hall, but not always at their seats, unless matters dealing directly with their specialized agencies are being discussed.

With regard to this, the representative of UNESCO would like to make a brief statement and I call upon him.

/Mr. ARNALDO (UNESCO)

Mr. ARNALDO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization): I asked for the floor only to express my appreciation of the fact that representatives of the specialized agencies were somehow missed by the Council earlier this afternoon. It is good to be missed, though the truth of the matter is that at least I, myself, representing UNESCO, have been present since the start of the meeting just some seats behind the representative of India. Of course, when I met the representative of India he told me that he did not have eyes at the back of his head.

Nevertheless, all I wanted to say is that we representatives of the agencies are sitting by waiting to assist the Council in any matters falling within our own competence. I did not take my designated seat since I was of the opinion that the educational aspects of the annual reports would not be taken up this afternoon. As it turned out, the Council heard a masterful statement from the representative of India, including all aspects of the annual report covering the British Cameroons. I have taken due note of these remarks, as well as those of the representatives of El Salvador and Haiti which also touched on educational matters. I was, of course, very much impressed by the ideas expressed here on free and compulsory education and wish to inform the Council that the General Conference of UNESCO approved, two years ago at its last General Conference, resolutions pertaining to free and compulsory education involving this idea of development and extension of free and compulsory primary schools at suitable stages. In other words, there is the plan of target dates for the fuller development of free and compulsory education. For that purpose, UNESCO has called regional meetings and it is an impressive record that in those regional meetings the idea of target dates for the development of free and compulsory education in suitable stages -- five-year plans, ten-year plans -- has met with the widest favour.

Lastly, I wanted to call attention merely to the document already distributed, document T/1091, which contains the observations of UNESCO on the five Trust Territories in Africa. Unfortunately, the Territory under discussion is not included in these observations of UNESCO. As stated in that document, the report for the Cameroons under British Administration was not received by the secretariat of UNESCO in time for the preparation of suitable observations.

I wish to assure the Council that we of the specialized agencies -- I shall take it upon myself to notify the others -- are always at your beck and call if we can assist in any way in furthering the work of the Council.

Mr. Krishna MENON (India): I am grateful to the representative of UNESCO for what he has said and I still maintain that I cannot see behind me. I see a lot of things that are going on but my observations have no personal bearing at all. I believe that these specialized agencies of ours and these organs of the United Nations should be in a position to be in the forefront of these things and while they are not members of the Trusteeship Council they are delegated to be here during the discussion. I made no personal reference to anyone's presence or absence. I hope it will be taken in that way.

Mr. TSARAPKIN (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): While considering the report of the United Kingdom regarding the Cameroons under its trusteeship for the year 1952, the Trusteeship Council should devote special attention to the question of the actual status of the Cameroons to determine whether its present status is that of a Trust Territory as set forth in the Charter of the United Nations and in the Trusteeship Agreement.

A study of the report of the Administering Authority and the reports of the Visiting Missions which have gone to this Territory leaves no doubt that the policy of the Administering Authority in this Territory is definitely directed towards depriving the Cameroons of its special rights and its special status as a Trust Territory and to reduce the Cameroons to the position of a British colony.

In effect, the Administering Authority -- if you are going to call a spade a spade -- has actually annexed the Territory. Without asking the Trusteeship Council or the United Nations, it has dismembered the Territory from the administrative point of view. It has taken the northern part of the Territory and attached it to one province of Nigeria and has taken the southern part of it and attached it to another part of Nigeria. The administrative centre which controls the northern area of the Cameroons is in one section of Nigeria and

the administrative centre which administers the southern section of the Cameroons is in another part of Nigeria. Thus, as far as a Trust Territory is concerned, the Cameroons no longer exists as such. This Trust Territory has been swallowed up and has disappeared. It has been absorbed into the British colony of Nigeria.

We must openly recognize here that the Administering Authority, in its definition of the status of the Cameroons, bases itself not on the Charter and the Trusteeship Agreement but on the constitution which the British Administration has drawn up for its colony -- for Nigeria. For instance, let us look at the administrative division of the Cameroons and Nigeria made by the Administering Authority. We have Nigeria divided into three parts, central, northern and eastern. The Cameroons are divided into two parts, the northern and the southern parts. The southern part of the Cameroons belongs to the eastern region of Nigeria and the northern part of the Cameroons belongs to the northern Nigerian province. The latter is administered from the town of Kaduna in Northern Nigeria and the southern part of the Cameroons is administered from Enugu in Eastern Nigeria. That is the situation from the administrative and political point of view of the Trust Territory of the Cameroons.

Undoubtedly, the fusion of the Territory with Nigeria is accompanied by the fusion of other fields of activity in the Trust Territory with the colony. For instance, in accordance with the constitution of Nigeria, there is a common legislative and executive body for Nigeria and the Cameroons. There is no special single legislative or executive body for the Cameroons as a Trust Territory.

/All of these bodies

All of these bodies are dependent upon organs which are set up in Nigeria and are administered by Nigeria. The Cameroons have no independent representation in Nigerian bodies. The members of the Cameroons in these bodies represent a very small minority and consequently the Trust Territory of the Cameroons, despite the Charter, is deprived of its own organs of administration and has no means of assuring its rights in the organs of Nigeria. Obviously, such action on the part of the Administering Authority is a violation of the Charter and the decisions of the General Assembly. I have in mind specifically the General Assembly resolution dated 13 November 1948 which provided for an independent development of the Trust Territory as a separate entity in the political, economic and social fields, as well as in the field of education. We see now that there is no separate entity and that there is no progress towards self-government and independence.

The attempt of the Administering Authority to represent the actual annexation of the Trust Territory to the colony as some sort of administrative union is a very flimsy attempt and is simply a pretext used by the Administering Authority to hide their actions in regard to the Cameroons as a Trust Territory. There is no question here of an administrative union, of course. It is a question of the absorption, the complete dissolution of the Trust Territory in the Protectorate of Nigeria and the subjection of the Cameroons to Nigeria in all respects.

It is interesting to note that in 1949, the Commissioner for the Cameroons who was appointed -- who, incidentally, is responsible only for the administration of the southern Cameroons -- is directly subordinate to the Vice-Governor of the eastern region of Nigeria, who in turn is subject to the Governor of Nigeria, so that there is not even a direct contact between the Commissioner for the Cameroons and the Governor of Nigeria, but there is an intermediate step. The Trust Territory does not have its own budget. The highest judicial organ in the Territory is the High Court of Nigeria and there once again, I wish to point out that there is no independent existence for the Cameroons as a Trust Territory -- there exists only a part of Nigeria, a province of Nigeria.

Recently, there appeared in the Press an announcement of the fact that a constitutional convention was taking place in Nigeria under the chairmanship of a British colonial official and the future status of the Cameroons and Nigeria was discussed at that convention. We should note here in the

Trusteeship Council the fact that the British Administration meets in Nigeria and considers the constitutional problems of the Cameroons without advising the United Nations of that and without having received any indications from the Trusteeship Council or from the United Nations in that direction. This fact in itself shows that the Administering Authority is ignoring the United Nations and the Trusteeship System and is ignoring the entire Organization of the United Nations as the supreme authority in the international Trusteeship System -- the authority which gives instructions and directives and which controls the operation of the System as a whole.

At the same convention in Nigeria, certain proposals were approved which provided for inclusion in the proposed federation of Nigeria; the southern Cameroons would constitute a separate unit, while the northern Cameroons would be included in the northern region of Nigeria.

We have a Trusteeship Agreement and in this Agreement the United Nations gave the Cameroons to the United Kingdom as a single Trust Territory for its administration. The British Administration split it in half, and now what do we have? In accordance with the new constitution -- a constitution, incidentally, on which we were not consulted at all by the Administration -- the southern part of the Cameroons will be given some sort of autonomy and the northern part will continue to be simply part of Nigeria. In other words, the splitting up of this Territory is carried even further, and I think the Trusteeship Council should give attention to this aspect of affairs in the Territory and should do something to improve the situation, because matters have already gone too far. They have gone so far that perhaps in the future the United Nations and the Trusteeship Council may find it very difficult to discover what has happened to the Cameroons; the Visiting Missions will not find the Territory and will have to send exploratory expeditions to look for the Territory. We will be told that we have the Protectorate of Nigeria, but the Cameroons -- no!

Of course all this shows that the Administering Authority has not taken into consideration the special status of the Cameroons as a Trust Territory -- even in its plans for the reorganization of Nigeria. In those plans it simply considers the Cameroons as a separate part of its colony of Nigeria. We cannot allow that to take place, and we cannot, of course, agree with such actions. The Trusteeship Council should give very serious attention to the fact that the

indigenous inhabitants of the Cameroons themselves are not satisfied with the present unification of the Territory with Nigeria. From the replies given by the special representative, it might be thought that the people of the Cameroons wanted very much to be unified with Nigeria and that they are doing everything possible to struggle against independent status as a Trust Territory, but that is not true. The information supplied by the Visiting Mission and from petitions -- which is available to us -- makes it clear that the populations of the Cameroons want to have their independence as a Trust Territory which will be under the trusteeship of the United Nations and not under the authority of a Governor. They do not wish to be part of the colony of Nigeria. Such organizations as the Bakweri Land Committee, the Mamfe Regional Committee, the development area of Mamfe all want territorial autonomy for their Trust Territory.

To substantiate this, I shall read this paragraph from the Visiting Mission's report:

"These...proposals...all seemed to reflect, if not directly expressed, the fear that the interests of the Trust Territory might be subordinated to or prejudiced by those of Nigeria."

The Visiting Mission's report also draws the attention of the Council to the widespread fears regarding the possible subjection of the interests of the Trust Territory to the interests of Nigeria.

/Of course, the Trusteeship Council

Of course, the Trusteeship Council, we hope, will give this subject particular attention and will draw special interest to it because we must say quite openly that here we have the question of the future development of a Trust Territory, the question of its development towards self-government and independence. The question is very simply this: will the Territory develop towards self-government and independence as set forth in the Charter, or will it finally and completely be converted into a colony such as Nigeria and simply become a province, or an area, or a country which is a part of Nigeria? In order to ensure the progressive political development of the Territory, the present situation must be changed; that is, the situation whereby the indigenous inhabitants are prevented from participating in their own administration -- the administration is purely in the hands of the commissioner and he governs through ^{district} and regional officials, provincial officials, and other British administrative officers.

From the information contained on pages 204 to 209 of the report of the Administering Authority, it can be seen that the indigenous inhabitants in the Cameroons do not occupy any important posts in the Administration. If one examines the tables published in the report, the following facts can be seen. These are Government figures. Take agricultural, for instance; the table gives us the number of "Government officials employed wholly within Trust Territory...". In agricultural, we have data on the four years of 1949, 1950, 1951 and 1952, and under the heading of "Senior grades" we see there are no Cameroonians -- in other words, for those four years, there were no Cameroonians in the senior grades of the agriculture department. Look under the heading of "Co-operative", you see the same situation; when you get to "Senior grades", you see that as far as Cameroonians are concerned, the figure is nil. Look at "Customs and Excise" and under "Senior grades" there are no Cameroonians. Look at "Education" -- here, finally it is true, we see some Cameroonians here, one each year. And in the field of "Electricity", again not a single Cameroonian. Under "Forestry" we see "Senior grades", no Cameroonians; "Geological Survey", no Cameroonians; "Judicial", under "Senior grades", no Cameroonians; "Labour, Senior grades", no Cameroonians -- I am taking the Departments and the Grades of the Government structure in the Trust Territory and I am now reading from page 206 of the report of the Administering Authority for 1952. On page 207 under the heading "Marine" Department, there is not one single Cameroonian under the listing of "Senior grades";

under "Marketing and Exports", there is not one single Cameroonian listed; under "Medical", not one single Cameroonian; "Meteorological", not one single Cameroonian; "Post and Telegraphs", no Cameroonians, "Public Works", not one single Cameroonian; and so forth.

I have listed almost all of the Departments of government of the Cameroonian Administration in which there is not a single person, not a single senior grade responsible Cameroonian official, not in 1949, 1950, 1951 or in 1952. The years pass, one follows the other, but no progress can be seen. That is the true situation in the Trust Territory. Instead of creating in the Trust Territory democratic organs of local government, the Administering Authority in effect promotes and encourages the backward tribal system, and as native officials the Governor and the Commissioner appoint tribal chiefs or family heads and the old clan institutions, the old tribal institutions, still remain perhaps under different headings or different names.

In the report of the Administering Authority, on page 38, it is stated: "Where chiefs, or chiefs and councils, formed the recognised authority they became the native authority." (Cameroons Report 1952, page 38, paragraph 150)

This very vague phrasing means that wherever a local chief exercised authority, where they formed the recognized authority, they became the native authority. Now, that sort of perpetuation has nothing to do with the democratic system of authority; that is simply a retention of the old tribal system in the Territory and it is used as a prop -- as a support -- for maintaining the position of the Administering Authority.

Further, on page 45 of the report it is stated that during the year under review, 1952, "a thorough overhaul of village organisation began...". Now, the purpose of this reorganization is naturally to strengthen the authority of these tribal chiefs, these native authorities. It is necessary to democratize the Administration and this has been demanded by the individual indigenous inhabitants and the various organizations. And, in the memorandum submitted to the Visiting Mission by the National Federation of the Cameroons, it was pointed out that the system of administration through native chiefs and native authorities is not democratic; this is not a popular system of administration and, therefore, it should be replaced and done away with. This appears in the report of the

Visiting Mission. This demand of the indigenous inhabitants shows that the time has long since been at hand for the Administering Authorities to bring about the transition from the tribal system to the system of self-government based on democratic principles and foundations.

In order to ensure the political progress of the peoples of the Trust Territories, it is necessary to bring this population directly into participation in the administration of its own Territory. If the Administering Authority will not do this and if the indigenous inhabitants will not be drawn in ever-increasing numbers into the administration of its own Territory, there will never be any progress in that sphere of activity and the Cameroons will remain in the state in which it now finds itself -- that is, the corps of officials, the corps of administrators, develops through administration and through practice itself. Start putting the indigenous inhabitants into posts of authority and you will see how quickly you will have a fine corps of indigenous administrators who will be able to handle the affairs of their own Territory.

The situation in the Trust Territory shows that the Administering Authority are not carrying out a policy which would be directed towards developing political progress in the Territory. The people of the Cameroons are, in effect, without political rights; they live under conditions of complete ignorance and dire need. Even according to data supplied by the Administering Authority, about 90 per cent of the population is illiterate; ^{information} this appears in the Administering Authority's report.

/The Visiting Mission points

The Visiting Mission points out in its report that the percentage of illiteracy is even higher among women and the aged. There are an insufficient number of elementary schools and only two secondary schools in the Territory, and they are not Government schools, they belong to Missions. As far as institutions of higher learning are concerned, in a Territory which has over half a million people there is not a single institution of this sort.

Furthermore, it should be pointed out that fees are charged for education, even in the elementary schools. Furthermore, if we bear in mind the dire need for schools, the insufficient number of schools and the low quality of these schools, as well as the inability of the indigenous inhabitants -- in view of their poverty-stricken status -- to pay fees for education -- in view of all of this, I think that one can get a very clear picture of the glaring ignorance and illiteracy which is rampant in the Territory.

Let us take, for instance, the figures for this year and see how many children of school age attended school, and we see that only 13 per cent of the children of school age in the Southern Cameroons, and in the Northern Cameroons only 2 per cent of children of school age attended school. That is how things are there. This, by the way, is on page 245 of the report. If we look at these data, we shall see that on page 158 of the report the Administering Authority says: "The extent of illiteracy is not actually known, but it is estimated at probably about 90 per cent". In other words, 10 per cent is literate. If only 2 per cent of children of school age can attend schools in the Northern Cameroons, then in a number of years, with time, literacy will drop to 2 per cent. Even this 10 per cent figure is being down-graded; in other words, there will be a downward movement from 10 per cent to 2 per cent, and we can see that there is even a backward movement in education, from the information given by the Administering Authority itself -- if we are to compare the information given on page 158 with the data in the tables on page 245.

The situation in the field of health is equally unsatisfactory. The majority of the indigenous inhabitants are deprived of the possibilities of medical assistance. In the Dikwa Emirate, in Adamawa, in Tigon, Ndoro and Kentu there is not a single hospital and there is only one dispensary which belongs to a religious mission and not to the authorities. This is on pages 129 and 130 of the report. Because of the lack of roads and poor communications, the indigenous inhabitants of most of the areas are deprived of the possibility of getting to

hospitals which are located far from their villages, and therefore the Administering Authority has to utilize the assistance of charlatans and quacks who have no medical training. That is what the Administering Authority says, and I am quoting the report. The work of these quacks and medicine-men depends a great deal on the communications in the area, where the people are ignorant and where they are cut off from larger centres and qualified practitioners. I must say that the relatives of an injured or sick person -- this is on page 133 of the report -- has no choice; since he cannot reach a hospital alive he has to go to these quacks. Malaria, trachoma, venereal diseases, leprosy, yaws and intestinal diseases are all rampant. There is an insufficiency of medical personnel, and from the report of the Administering Authority it can be seen that there are only a few hospitals in the Territory, only 16 doctors in the Territory which has half a million people. Can these 16 doctors really serve the medical needs of half a million people?

From the question which I asked the special representative and his reply, it can be seen that all of these 16 doctors are essentially in the Southern area. In the North there are none really. The Administering Authority does not concern itself with the preparation of qualified medical practitioners and workers from among the indigenous inhabitants. Furthermore, the number of certain medical personnel was reduced in 1952 as compared with 1951, as may be seen from the table on page 240 of the Administering Authority's report. The number of hospital beds has decreased. For instance, in the government hospitals in the period 1950-51 the number of beds was reduced, and in the Mission hospitals there was an equal reduction in hospital beds. We see that even in this field, even in the very poor conditions which existed in 1950 we see that there is a decrease. Instead of an increase in personnel, we see a decrease in personnel. Instead of an increase in beds, we see a decrease in beds. All of this shows that the Administering Authority is not concerned with education or the health services for the people of the Territory.

Here I must disagree with the representative who stated here that the Administering Authority should take steps to see that the indigenous inhabitants should not be afraid to come to the hospitals for medical assistance and to come to the dispensaries. But there are no hospitals, there are no dispensaries, there are no doctors. Where are they going to go? That is not the question. It is not

the ignorance of the indigenous inhabitants which is the question here. Of course, the Administering Authority is responsible for the ignorance of the indigenous inhabitants, but that is not the weak link. The fact is that there are not enough dispensaries, there are not enough hospitals, there are not enough doctors, and it is not the ignorance of the population which has brought that about. Of course the Administering Authority must very, very sharply increase its budget for education and for health services and for general medical services for the indigenous population.

This is not a question of pennies; it is not an increase of a thousand or a couple of thousand pounds. The present budget has to be doubled, tripled, and so forth, to really see some positive results. Simply to boost the budget by some ten thousand pounds or so, will do no good. The Trusteeship Council must direct that the budget for education and the budget for health must be increased a number of times so that some effective results may be seen in the near future. Otherwise there will be no results and the situation will remain as it has in the past, not only unsatisfactory, but actually in an intolerably poor state.

/The economic and social

The economic and social situation of the Territory is characterized by very difficult conditions of life for the indigenous inhabitants, resulting from the colonial exploitation of these people and the rapacious exploitation of the resources of the Territory by the Administering Authority and, more particularly, by the monopolistic companies which lord it over the Territory.

It has already been mentioned by other speakers here that the Administering Authority has developed the economy of the Territory in what might be described as a lop-sided fashion; it is a purely colonial type of economy, based on the development of agricultural and industrial raw materials for export from the Territory to the metropolitan area. These are the classic characteristics of a colonial economy: the development of raw material, and the pumping of this raw material out of the Territory and into the metropolitan area, to be used there. This has led to the fact that in the Cameroons the entire economy of the area depends on the cultivation of bananas, cocoa and palm oil -- and rubber. There is no food processing or other industries.

In speaking of the economy of the Cameroons, we cannot overlook the fact that in this Territory we see a very broad application of the practice of alienating lands from the indigenous inhabitants in the interests of monopolistic companies. For instance, it is known that the Administering Authority has alienated from the indigenous inhabitants more than 250,000 acres of land given them over to the Cameroons Development Corporation. Other English companies got some 32,000 acres of land. The religious missions own about 4000 acres. Various Europeans and other people own another 4000 acres or so. Lands have also been alienated under the pretext of creating forest reserves. These reserves are being constantly expanded, and in the Kumba area they equal 16.7 per cent of the entire area. In Mamfe, 20 per cent or more of the entire area is given over to these reserves.

In examining the economy of the Cameroons -- this pitiful economy -- this agricultural economy, we will see that it is completely in the hands of such companies as the Cameroons Development Corporation, the United Africa Company, Elders and Fyffes, Ltd., John Holt and Company and others. These large companies are very wealthy; they have millions and millions of dollars in capital; but they engage only in the agricultural aspects of production -- they do no manufacturing. They take the agricultural products, and they send

them off to the metropolitan area. Almost all the palm oil, the bananas, the cocoa and the rubber is produced on the plantations of the Cameroons Development Corporation, of Elders and Fyffes or of the United Africa Company. The Cameroons Development Corporation carries on its activities not for the purpose of developing the Trust Territory, but for other purposes: that is to supply the metropolitan area with agricultural products.

It should be noted that in 1951 the Cameroons Development Corporation realised a working profit of £623,000 sterling; and from this profit less than one-tenth went into the Governor's fund -- that is for the purposes of that Territory. The Corporation got over six hundred thousand pounds profit, but less than one-tenth of this profit went to the Territory for its development. And it must be observed that the Cameroons Development Corporation is expanding its influence on the economic and political life of the Territory. The Visiting Mission said in its report:

"The scope of the Corporation's activities exceeds by far those of the usual economic enterprise and in this connexion the Mission heard the view expressed that it was sometimes difficult to draw a line in the Trust Territory between government services and the Corporation's duties and functions, as the Corporation runs an increasing number of hospitals, dispensaries, schools, community institutions, water supply systems, roads, railways, harbours and boats..."

In other words, their position is like that of the United Fruit Company in some of the Central American countries -- a situation very similar -- and we know the influence exercised by the United Fruit Company in certain Central American republics.

It should be pointed out that the Administering Authority -- the governing Power -- stands aside from questions of education and health, and other social measures; although it would seem that since the Administering Authority has undertaken the responsibility of governing the Territory, it should not be too much to expect it to be responsible for such budgetary expenses as appropriations for health, for education and so forth -- and not to throw it on the shoulders of a commercial corporation. After all, a commercial corporation is interested in making profits -- and pocketing them --

and not in the social and educational development of a Trust Territory. I'm sure that is as well-known and fundamental as A, B, C, and there is no need to dwell on the point.

If we look at the operation of the plantations owned by the British companies and compare it with the operation of plantations belonging to the indigenous inhabitants, we shall find a fantastic difference. The company plantations have the benefit of machinery and all the most modern equipment, while the indigenous inhabitants must work their plantations by purely primitive means and can barely provide subsistence for their owners. As the Visiting Mission's report points out, the standard of living is at a primitive mm level, particularly in the northern area. The plantation workers receive miserable wages; for instance, an unskilled worker in the northern regions gets about one and a half shillings a day. These workers protest against the working conditions; strikes occur when they demand wage increases. In 1952, as we see from the report, there were six strikes, in which some 5,700 workers participated.

/However, the situation of those

However, the situation of those in the Territory who do not work for hire is even worse than that of the paid plantation worker, as has been very clearly shown in the report of the Administering Authority which says that studies carried out by medical workers show that many suffer from malnutrition. It is quite understandable then that it is a very striking example, for each of us here, of how the indigenous inhabitants live to see that people in prison always gain weight. The report of the Administering Authority says, on page 126, that whenever an indigenous inhabitant is arrested, he always gains weight in prison. Although prison life is not particularly sweet, nevertheless we see that an indigenous inhabitant who is imprisoned is fed better than he can feed himself when he is on his own. This is a shameful situation, yet is a situation which is reported by the Administering Authority. The health of the individual improves in prison, he is fed normally, he puts on weight and this means that when he is out of prison he lives a life of semi-starvation; he is under-nourished. This is very indicative of the situation in the Territory. And, as to how they are fed in prison, no one here has any illusions, I am sure, as to the wealth of such fare.

The fact that the indigenous inhabitants are deprived of the most fertile land, lands which have been given over to the use of the monopolies and European colonists makes even worse the difficult situation of the populations of the Trust Territory. After all, we know that the Bakweri tribe and other smaller tribes have been deprived of their best lands and that now they are practically doomed to extinction. The Visiting Mission, in its report, noted that among the Bakweri and other tribes who live around the Victoria division there is a decrease in population, a low birthrate, poor diet and poor nutrition. Prostitution is rampant and a high death rate can be seen from the figures available. Since 1946 the Bakweri tribe and its peoples have constantly petitioned the Trusteeship Council to have their lands returned to them, lands which have been taken illegally from them by the German colonizers and which, subsequently, when the Cameroons came under British Administration and Trusteeship that group of people did not get back the lands which had been expropriated by the German colonizers. The Administering Authority, on the contrary, gave this land to the Cameroons Development Corporation and the

Bakweri peoples are still without their land. They now, as previously, insist upon having their lands returned to them. It should be noted that the Trusteeship Council has not, up to the present time, taken any steps to satisfy the very fair, just and legal request of the Bakweri tribe, nor to satisfy the demands of other indigenous inhabitants for the return of lands alienated from them.

There is no doubt that one of the most important functions of the Trusteeship Council is to defend the interests of the indigenous inhabitants, even in the land question, and consequently to adopt measures and take steps to assure the return of lands which have been alienated from the indigenous inhabitants and to prevent in the future the alienation of such lands in any form whatsoever. In other words, it is the duty of the Trusteeship Council to see that in the future indigenous lands are never again alienated for any reason at all.

The policy in effect now in the Trust Territory can in no way assure an improvement in the standard of living of the indigenous inhabitants. For instance, take the system of taxation in the Territory. Up to the present time there is a head tax. This is a completely unfair system because it does not take into consideration the economic circumstances of any given taxpayer. I would recall to the Council that in 1948, at the third session of the Trusteeship Council -- I recall that I was sitting there -- the question of taxation came up. At that time, it was a question of Ruanda-Urundi and Tanganyika. It was pointed out that it was necessary at that time to change from this head-tax-system to an income tax system which would be based on ability to pay. But, from the report, it is obvious that this barbarous taxation system is still in effect. The Administering Authority should certainly take the necessary steps to change this head-tax-system.

Of course, many representatives have already spoken about this, but I think that I cannot but dwell for a moment on the question of corporal punishment. The Administering Authority must know that the General Assembly and the Trusteeship Council have many times recommended to the Administering Authorities that capital punishment be abolished in the Trust Territories. Nevertheless, we see that nothing along this line has been done and we see that the indigenous inhabitants are still without protection from arbitrary police action, as well as from European property holders and large companies. The report of the Administering

Authority states, for instance, that the population enjoys freedom from arbitrary arrest. However, we know that in accordance with the criminal code, a police officer has the right to arrest any individual without warrant if he has a reasonable assumption that a warrant for arrest has been issued. In other words, arbitrary police action can take place in the Territory.

From the material available, we can also see that property holders, or even servants of property holders -- or people authorized by property holders -- can arrest any individual who commits a crime which results in damage to the property of the property holder. Of course, such a system of jurisprudence, such a system of fighting crime, cannot be approved by the Trusteeship Council. The Trusteeship Council, further, cannot remain silent about such facts.

/The Administering Authority

The Administering Authority, of course, should take serious steps to see that these abnormalities in judicial procedure are abolished and thus do away with arbitrary actions in this field. I have omitted a great deal of what I wanted to say because many of the speakers who preceded me spoke about the shortcomings, the failings and the abnormalities which exist in the Trust Territory of the Cameroons.

From what has been said by others and from ^{what} I myself have said, it arises that the Trusteeship Council must adopt such recommendations which would obligate the Administering Authority to review and revise its administration of the Trust Territory in accordance with the aims, purposes and principles of the Charter, the high purposes which are set forth in the Charter in the Chapter dealing with the international trusteeship system. This means that the Cameroons must be administered by the Administering Authority as an independent Trust Territory which shall ^{have} its own administration, because the problems facing a Trust Territory are quite different from those facing the administration of a colonial area.

In a colonial area, the Administering Authority of the metropolitan Power is not bound by any limitations which it has when it administers a trust territory. The problems, the obligations and responsibilities are different for a Trust Territory and for a colony. It is our job as a Trusteeship Council to see that the Administering Authority carries out its obligations under the Charter. I am touching here, I know, upon the question of the administrative unions. We are going to get to this separately; but it should be pointed out in connexion with the Cameroons that ⁱⁿ the Cameroons as well as ⁱⁿ other Trust Territories, the populations have the right to demand, in accordance with the Charter, that the Territory be administered separately from the colony. In accordance with the Charter, we have to move ^{forward} towards independence and self-government. We are a Trust Territory and not a non-self-governing territory. Please be so kind as to assure for us such an administration which would bring us closer to complete self-government and independence in the shortest possible time.

Now, when there is no independent administration for the Cameroons, well, then, the Trust Territory is completely unprotected from any arbitrary decisions and actions of the metropolitan country. ^{From a Trust Territory} It has become a colony. The Administering Authority must understand that a Trust Territory is not a colony and that a

colony is not a Trust Territory. The tasks and obligations are different, their status is different and the Trusteeship Council must demand, and draw that line very sharply, between these two different types of territories. They are not the same. Their juridical status is different. Their position in the Charter is different, and from all other points of view there is a difference in the status of these two types of territories.

In recognizing this, the Administering Authority must obligate itself and we must compel them to see that they take the necessary steps to develop organs of self-government in the Territory. First, to prepare the necessary officials of government among the indigenous inhabitants; secondly, to prepare officials to take over, in a reasonable time, the administrative functions in their territory; thirdly, it should take steps effectively to increase the necessary expenditures for education; and fourthly, expenditures for health and medical services must be increased a number of times so that a worthwhile sum would be available to do some good in this field; and finally, to carry out reforms in the field of taxation, in the general economic development of the Territory. In this respect it should be pointed out by the Trusteeship Council that an abnormal situation exists whereby the Cameroons are divided. We see that even the small amount of money which is put into economic development, education, health and so forth, the lion's share -- the greatest share of all these things -- is enjoyed by the Southern Cameroons while the Northern Cameroons suffers.

The ACTING PRESIDENT (interpretation from Spanish): I call upon the representative of the World Health Organization for a brief statement.

Mrs. MEAGHER (World Health Organization): I merely want to associate my organization with the remarks made by my colleague from UNESCO a short while ago, when he gave assurance to the readiness of the specialized agencies to give every possible assistance to the Council. While I was not present in the Council chamber when these remarks were being made, I did hear them, as well as the preceding statement from the representative of India in the WHO offices at the United Nations where we had mechanical facilities which enabled us to hear

the proceedings of the Council, and of other United Nations bodies when the pressure of other duties prevents our actual presence.

The World Health Organization is increasingly interested in public health in the Trust Territories, as will be shown at a later stage in the Council's session when we hope for an opportunity to make a general statement describing our activities in the African Trust Territories.

Brigadier Gibbon, special representative for the Cameroons under United Kingdom Administration, withdrew.

EXAMINATION OF CONDITIONS IN THE CAMEROONS UNDER FRENCH ADMINISTRATION (T/1091, T/L.406):

- (a) ANNUAL REPORT (T/1082) [Agenda item 3 d]
- (b) PETITIONS (T/PET.4 and 5/L.1 to 3, 4 and Add. 1-4, 5; T/COM.4 and 5/L.1; T/PET.5/L.2 to 7, 9 and Add.1, 10 to 12, 14, 15; T/COM.5/L.4, 25) [Agenda item 4]
- (c) REPORT OF THE UNITED NATIONS VISITING MISSION TO TRUST TERRITORIES IN WEST AFRICA, 1952 (T/1043, 1069) [Agenda item 5]

GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTIONS 655 (VII) and 753 (VIII): HEARING OF PETITIONERS FROM THE TRUST TERRITORY OF THE CAMEROONS UNDER FRENCH ADMINISTRATION [Agenda item 10]

At the invitation of the Acting President, Mr. Georges Becquey, special representative for the Cameroons under French Administration, took a seat at the Council table.

Political Advancement

Mr. TAPRAZI (Syria) (interpretation from French): I do not want to put any questions to the special representative, but I have a remark to make with regard to a statement which was made yesterday by the representative of El Salvador.

Basing himself on my statement, he, to a certain extent, replied to what I had said about the Visiting Mission. In point of fact, I read the record of yesterday's meeting and I think that what he heard may have been a mistaken understanding. In any case, if I had criticisms to level with regard to the Visiting Mission, these criticisms were not addressed to him, because I think in this connexion we share the same ideas.

Mr. ALI KHAN

Mr. ALI KHAN (India): If I am not wrong, we were discussing the political aspect of the report yesterday. I should like to ask the special representative one or two questions in this regard.

We understand from the report that there are three Cameroonian deputies in the French National Assembly, two representatives of the Cameroons in the Council of the Republic and three representatives of the Cameroons in the Assembly of the French Union. May we know if the Administering Authority proposes to avail itself of the ability of the people of the Cameroons to send representatives to these Assemblies to take part in important political, social and economic matters, to benefit from this and to associate them in some way with the Executive Council of the High Commissioner. What I mean to ask is, does the Administering Authority propose to avail itself of the ability of these people and of their experience to associate them with the Executive Council of the High Commissioner.

Mr. BECQUEY (Special representative) (interpretation from French): In the first place, I would like to make a slight correction to the figures which have been given. There are three deputies elected by the second college and there are two Senators who are elected by the second section of the Territorial Assembly but there are five representatives of the Territory in the Assembly of the French Union without any discrimination as to their status. Elections to the Assembly of the French Union, as I have had occasion to point out when I made my^{introductory} statement, are based on the usual lists, by a totality of the members of the Assembly acting as a single college. If, since 1947, there had been among those five representatives three Cameroonian indigenous inhabitants and two Frenchmen from the metropolitan territory, this figures have been modified by the Assembly itself, not as a matter of principle -- and I insist on this because it is not a rule -- but in point of fact the Assembly voted and it happens that four Cameroonian indigenous inhabitants are among these five representatives. It is certain that the Administering Authority benefits by the presence of these representatives in France in order to profit from their experience, not for the administrative council which is held on another plane but actually for the work of the commissions of the Assembly and for the work of many sub-committees.

It should be pointed out that one of the deputies who is a former Minister -- he was Secretary of State for Overseas France -- is President of the Territorial Assembly. I can say since I have often attended these meetings of the Assembly that there is no doubt that the presence of Cameroonians and also of Europeans, of course, in the Parliament of the metropolitan territory is very important. It has a great influence on the debates of the Assembly because it is seen that these people have acquired much experience in debate and for the Administration it is sometimes much more important to see one of these people getting up rather than someone who does not have parliamentary experience and who will simply set forth his case without any familiarity with the procedure.

Mr. ALI KHAN (India): I am much obliged to the special representative for the information he has given to us. I am very happy to know that these Cameroonian representatives have distinguished themselves in the Assemblies.

I wanted to know whether there is such a thing as an executive council of the High Commissioner, whether there is such a thing as an executive council of ministers or people who are responsible to the various departments and the High Commissioner.

Mr. BECQUEY (Special representative): My reply is: no, at the present time there is no executive council in the Cameroons; there is only an administrative council which is an advisory council composed of four or six high officials, of two European notables, two indigenous notables who are designated by the High Commissioner in order to assist him in carrying out his administrative duties and especially to pass decrees. But that is solely an advisory council and I should specify that the creation of a kind of executive council -- I cannot foresee what the French Parliament might grant -- is contemplated at the present time in texts which the representative of France referred to yesterday. These texts are at present being studied by the parliamentary committees and we hope that they will be forthcoming very soon.

Mr. ALI KHAN (India): That is all I wanted to know.

The ACTING PRESIDENT (interpretation from Spanish): I would ask the representative of the Soviet Union if he is now in a position to continue with his questions.

Mr. TSARAPKIN (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): On page 50 of the report, it is stated that the higher posts of the Administration -- that is directors, heads of services, regional and sub-regional heads, as well as doctors and African midwives -- are occupied by 827 Europeans and 73 Africans. It would be interesting to know, if we put aside the figures for doctors and midwives, how many other high posts are occupied by Africans in the Territory. In other words, not counting doctors and midwives, how many other posts are held by indigenous Africans?

Mr. BECQUEY (Special representative) (interpretation from French): We simply have to refer to the table on page 303 of the report and we will see that if we take away the 73 Africans there is absolutely nothing.

We should note that at the present time no Cameroonian has passed the necessary competitive examinations in order to enter the general cadres, that is the ones that depend on the Ministry of Overseas France and not the local cadres. This would not be quite correct. No Cameroonian has at present passed the examination of the National School of Overseas France and none of them has as yet passed the examination for officials of the general administration. For the time being we will note that Africans are especially in what we call the higher cadres, grade A -- the scale of salaries of which begins at the same level as the salary scale of the general framework; it simply rises to a higher peak.

/Mr. TSARAPKIN

Mr. TSARAPKIN (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): Consequently, the higher posts in the Administration, such as directors, chiefs of services, regional and sub-division chiefs, are not held by any indigeneous Africans. On pages 12 and 13 of the Visiting Mission's report it is pointed out that the Administering Authority is very much concerned in seeing that the traditional social structure is not undermined, that the French authorities uphold the institutions of the chiefs and thus the status of the chiefs was defined by the decree of 4 February 1933 -- long before the establishment of the Trusteeship System and the United Nations. On page 15 of the report it is further stated that the inhabitants of the Cameroons point out that the authority of the chiefs is artificially maintained by the Administration. I would like an explanation from the special representative as to why the Administration is so anxious to support the authority of the local chiefs and even does it by ordinance. What does the Administering Authority intend to do to transfer from this system to a democratic system of local government?

Mr. BECQUEY (Special representative) (interpretation from French): I think that the report of the Visiting Mission has very clearly stated the position of the Administering Authority which has attempted -- in so far as that was compatible with public order and generally-accepted rules of morality -- to maintain the traditional structures whenever the population so desired. The fact that the text regulating the status of chiefs is previous to the existence of the United Nations Organization does not mean that it is completely independent from the status of trusteeship, since in 1933 the Cameroons were under a Mandate and the League of Nations was in existence. If the Trust Territory was at that time under Mandate, the principles which the Administering Authority applies under trusteeship remain the same as those which it applied previously, to a great extent.

We are asked why we were concerned with maintaining the structure which the populations desire. That is a conception which is more or less generalized throughout democracies. That is, we took into account the desires of the

population. What steps are taken to bring this system to a more modern form? I have set them forth. I did this when I explained how the Administering Authority had organized rural communes in the sub-divisions of the three main cocoa regions, where the population is encouraged to elect municipal councils which will progressively be substituted for the traditional influence of the chiefs.

Mr. TSARAPKIN (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): In the explanation given by the Administering Authority in document T/OBS.5/9, section 6, in connexion with the Banda petition, it is said that at the present time the law provides for a pension for those who have served an uninterrupted period of fifteen years in the army. I would like some explanation of this fifteen-year period of service. Who are these people involved and what is the significance of the term of service?

Mr. BECQUEY (Special representative) (interpretation from French): I do not think I understood the question very clearly. I presume the representative of the Soviet Union is asking whether we are referring to compulsory military service and generalized military service. If this is the case, my reply is no. Soldiers in the Cameroons are only those who have volunteered and who enlist in order to serve in the army. Then, after fifteen years these people are entitled to a pension. That is the minimum time limit to qualify for a pension.

Mr. TSARAPKIN (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): Those are all the questions I have at the moment on political affairs.

Economic Advancement

The Acting PRESIDENT (interpretation from Spanish): It seems that no one else wishes to ask any questions on political matters and we should go on to the economic field but it is rather late to do so now. However, we might take advantage of the ten minutes remaining. Perhaps the representative of India, who is on my list, would like to begin with his questions in the economic field.

Mr. ALI KHAN (India): I should like the special representative to tell me the proportion of customs duty derived from goods entering from the British Cameroons to the total revenue.

Mr. BECQUEY (Special representative) (interpretation from French): We have not got the exact breakdown by countries of origin as to the amount of customs duties which have been collected. What I can give now is statistics of imports and exports of the trade of the British Cameroons with Nigeria because the British Cameroons has no customs frontier with Nigeria and therefore there is no document which will enable us to establish whether this produce is of Cameroonian or Nigerian origin.

In 1952 the total of exports towards Nigeria, including oxen, leather, palm oil and ground nuts was 174,622,000 francs and the figure of imports was 140,403,000 francs. The value in relation to the total duties is certainly very small, because produce imported or exported is produce which is not of very great value and moreover there is a very wide tolerance. I would also like to specify that as regards frontier relations, a very large measure of tolerance has been established since last year. This particularly affects persons who come in or out of the country with a load -- what the British call a head-load, a charge de tête in French or 25 kilos approximately of produce, as well as for three head of livestock, that is, oxen or horses or small stock which may be led by hand. Thus, people crossing the frontier are not included in the statistics and even less, of course, in the collection of duties.

/Mr. ALI KHAN (India): Another question

Mr. ALI KHAN (India): Another question I should like to ask is in regard to cocoa.

In the report is stated that ^{the} Administration admitted that a great number of the African buyer-clerks affected the price of cocoa considerably and facilitated speculation. I should like to know if there is a cocoa marketing board.

Mr. BECQUEY (Special representative) (interpretation from French):

There is no collective organization for the purchase or sale of cocoa in the French Cameroons. At the present time, the system is a free one. Nevertheless, this requires some explanation. In order to avoid leaving Africans to manage on their own when faced with buyers from important firms or intermediaries, African, Lebanese, Syrian, Greek and others, the Administering Authority has encouraged co-operatives which assist in group sales. Very encouraging results have been obtained from this and for cocoa we have seen that markets have very strongly resisted the pressure of buyers and, especially in the last months, the price of cocoa has considerably increased. I refer not to the price on the world market, of which we have all heard, but to the price paid to the producer.

Mr. HENDERIDGE (Australia): The Visiting Mission states, in paragraph 120 of its report, that the "second programme of the ten-year plan, is due to go into operation after 1 July 1953..." Could the special representative tell me whether the first part of the plan has fulfilled all its objectives and is a success?

Mr. BECQUEY (Special representative) (interpretation from French): It is difficult for me to make any judgment on the first part of the plan. On the one hand, it is not yet complete. It included successive parts, each one covering a period of four years. This year, especially, we see a continuation of the implementation of this first part of the plan.

Nevertheless, as I have said in my introductory remarks, we must take account of the fact that three quarters of the funds granted to the Territory for the first part of the plan has been assigned to infra-structural work.

/We have therefore

We have, therefore, seen the implementation of this infrastructure, the building of roads, the improvement of railways, the extension of the port of Douala, the improvement of the port of Bonabéri and that of the port of Kribi; we have seen the building of airfields, we have seen an improvement in our electrical equipment throughout the Territory; we have seen the construction and inauguration of the dam and hydro-electric power station of Edéa. We can therefore say that this part was carried out in a satisfactory manner from the point of view of its achievement and this year the members of the Territorial Assembly were able to accompany the High Commissioner, in order to attend several inaugurations, one after the other so to speak.

And, at the present time, the Minister of Overseas France is present in the Cameroons where he is to inspect the installations of Edéa and Douala harbour. Of course, these are spectacular achievements; what influence they have on the standard of living of the country, that is, I think, a point upon which we can insist in respect of the success of this first part.

There is no doubt that the improvement of communications has been of very great importance indeed for the improvement of the standard of living of the country. More especially, I have already been able to state that in one particular area, the improvement of a 120 kilometre road entirely paved from M'balmayo to Sangmelima has enabled us to increase to a large degree the price paid to the producer of cocoa, due to the reduction of the transportation costs. I was able to quote also the fact that the increase of rail traffic on the western railway, due to the improvement of the track and the purchase of banana cars enabled us to increase the export of bananas to a large degree.

The Edéa hydro-electric station, we hope, will create a great measure of industrialization in the south of the country. Here and now, we are able to hope that it will shortly lead to a reduction of the costs of the kilowatt hour in the southern area of the Territory.

In the other fields, I have no figures present in my mind, but we have opened new classes, new schools; we have built the Lycée of Yaoundé and the college at Nkongsamba; we have also built elementary schools; we have improved the equipment of hospitals and dispensaries -- all this has been set forth at great length in the annual report and I have not made a memorandum of it and it is difficult for me to make any statement on the whole of the achievements of this first part of the plan.

The second part which was to begin on 1 July 1953 found itself somewhat retarded, due, on the one hand, to the need for not slowing down by taking money from the available sums for new projects, those already being carried out and due also to a procedure which, though it is democratic, is somewhat lengthy and cumbersome. The plan has been studied, first of all, in the Territories by the Administration, submitted to the Territorial Assembly which approved it, and sent to the Ministry of Overseas France which studied it in every detail, made its comments, and transmitted it to the Commission on Modernization and Equipment which is entrusted with allotting funds for equipment throughout the French Union. It is a question of allotment of funds which come from the same source; that is, the metropolitan coterie. This Commission for Modernization and Equipment -- which created a special section for the study of Overseas France -- studied this plan very carefully and sent it back after its observations and modifications to the Ministry; and I think that the Territorial Assembly will be seized of the final project at its next session.

/In any case, the operation

In any case, the operation has been started, and as of 1 July 1954 certainly this plan will be under way in a normal manner. It will bear more especially not on the infrastructure any longer but on the projects for development of production. In order to counterbalance to a certain extent the somewhat heavy effort which the first plan has imposed on the budget of the Territory due to the increase of maintenance services and social services, it is important that the budget of the Territory should be able to receive new funds and it is specially important that the standard of living of the population may improve, and that is only feasible through an increase in production. The plan will bear more especially on the improvement, for instance, of roads in the cocoa area and also agricultural exploitations in the North and West.

This is perhaps rather a long statement, although it is still very incomplete I am afraid. I hope I answered the question that was put to me.

Mr. PETHERBRIDGE (Australia): In paragraph 195 of the Visiting Mission's report it is noted that the Administering Authority was contemplating the institution of a course in commercial accounting for persons who might assist in the work of the co-operatives. I would like to know if the special representative could tell us whether that course was begun and whether it is proving successful.

Mr. BECQUEY (Special representative)(interpretation from French): This course was not opened in 1952 as a result of the difficulty which the Administration found in finding a competent professor in accountancy who would be prepared to come under reasonable terms to the Cameroons. I believe it was opened last October -- I cannot assert this however, as this question escaped me -- but I think this course was opened last October. It is a course for officials and agents for the Société de Prévoyance who have a very important role to play at the present time for the allotment of credit through these societies and to the co-operatives.

Mr. PETHERBRIDGE (Australia): My third question is one on the subject of deforestation and erosion. At this late hour I will not suggest that the special representative should give a lengthy reply on that, particularly as I think we have had quite a lot of explanation on it. But what I was going to point out was that in paragraph 186 of the Visiting Mission's report the

difficulties the Administration is having in getting the co-operation of the inhabitants in preserving the Territory from deforestation and erosion are mentioned, and I was wondering whether the special representative could tell us whether they feel that they are making some progress in getting the people to realize these difficulties now.

Mr. BECQUEY (Special representative) (interpretation from French): The question of deforestation and erosion of soil is a very serious one which has received all the attention of the Visiting Mission and which always concerns the Administering Authority. From the point of view of forests on the one hand, we have insisted with the populations, in order to show them that it was not a measure of oppression when we created forestry reserves, but it was on the contrary quite consistent with the recommendations of the Trusteeship Council. We hope that thus we shall progressively bring the local populations to understand that this problem is a very serious one indeed. Nevertheless, at the present time there still remains very definite opposition to the classification of forests and that the Counsellors of the Territorial Assembly do not dare to go against this public opinion in order to take steps in this connexion. An effort has been made, however, in the question of reforestation. We see in the plan, on the one hand, studies and research in forestry- a list was made of all the forestry resources; and we also see a grant of 25,000,000 fcs. CFA for operations of enriching dense forest and renewing these forests in woods. We see 28,000,000 fcs. CFA for enriching the savannah, that is, the reforestation of the zones which are denuded in a critical manner. Specific problems arise, of course, in mountain areas where it is a question less of deforestation than of plain erosion of the soil, which is only covered in a very precarious manner already.

On the question of the Mongadou, since at its sixth session it adopted a resolution on this question, resolution 149 (VI) in which the Council asked the Administering Authority to intensify its efforts with a view to solving this problem. This is the Bamileke region, a mountainous area, where the Bamileke do not have enough room in their lands and they try to climb up the mountain slopes in order to settle there. What will happen is that they will scrape the few shrubs that are there, and pull out whatever there is and they will plant whatever they can manage to plant. The

ground will be washed away by the rain and after two or three years the area will be barren; nothing will grow any longer; there will not be slightest covering of the soil; the water system will be worse and not only that land but the lands lower down will also be ruined in a final and definitive manner. It is of course a very serious problem and the Administering Authority has taken steps in order to avoid this danger. The Decrees of 17 July 1950 have set this area up as a pasture reserve. The inhabitants of the districts here have priority for exploiting these pasture lands and it is expressly provided that if they wish to put livestock on this land, when there is any danger that this pasture land is over-burdened with livestock, the members of the communities must diminish their flocks. The question has not been settled in a final manner, and a committee has been designated on 13 January 1953 in order to settle as soon as possible the conditions for the exploitation of this zone.

It will be seen that although the question -- in fact, all these questions of deforestation and erosion -- is still far from being settled, the Administering Authority has not lost sight of the danger here and we are very concerned with finding a solution to them. I might say also that the Administering Authority retains constant contact with neighbouring African countries on all these questions of soil erosion and utilization of soils. There is a body, the CRACCUS, with a very strange name, which is meeting one of these days in the Cameroons and which deals with the question of erosion and utilization of soil for all this area.

The PRESIDENT: The representatives who have continued to work after six o'clock deserve my appreciation. The next meeting will take place on Monday at two o'clock, as usual. The Committee on Administrative Unions will meet on Monday also, in the morning, at 10.30, in room 10.

The meeting rose at 6.10 p.m.