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VERBATIM RECORD OF THE SIX HUNDRED AND EIGHTY-FIRST MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Friday, 9 March 1956, at 2 p.m.

President:

Mr. SEARS

(United States of America)

1. Examination of conditions in Tanganyika [3a, 4] (continued)
2. Examination of conditions in the Cameroons under British administration [3c, 4, 6a] (continued)

Note:

The Official Record of this meeting, i.e., the summary record, will appear in mimeographed form under the symbol T/SR.681. Delegations may submit corrections to the summary record for incorporation in the final version which will appear in a printed volume.

STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT

The PRESIDENT: After reading yesterday's verbatim record, I think it is only fair for me to say that when it came to matters which drew comparisons with neighbouring Territories, I gave the representative of India so much more latitude than I gave the representative of the Soviet Union that it was not fair. It was unintentionally not fair, but there it is. I think the members of the Council will understand when I say that it is not easy to decide when the proper reference limits have been exceeded, but I do believe that our work will be more scientific and more constructive if we are not too strict in preventing references and data which can throw light on our problems. For the future, therefore, I will appeal to the tolerance, good judgement, and common sense of all the members of the Council in the judicious use of such comparative data whenever they think it necessary.

EXAMINATION OF CONDITIONS IN TANGANYIKA:

- (a) ANNUAL REPORT OF THE ADMINISTERING AUTHORITY FOR 1954 (T/1205, 1221 and 12223)/Agenda item 3 a
- (b) PETITIONS CIRCULATED UNDER RULE 85, PARAGRAPH 2, OF THE RULES OF PROCEDURE OF THE TRUSTEESHIP COUNCIL (T/PET.2/L.4 and 6)/Agenda item 4

At the invitation of the President, Mr. Grattan-Bellew, special representative for Tanganyika under United Kingdom administration, took a place at the Trusteeship Council table.

General debate (continued)

Sir Alan BURNS (United Kingdom): I should like first to thank those of my colleagues who have expressed on behalf of their delegations appreciation of the work of the Administering Authority in Tanganyika during the past year. All the constructive criticisms and suggestions that have been offered will be most carefully considered by the Administering Authority.

(Sir Alan Burns, United Kingdom)

I should like to congratulate the representative of the Soviet Union on the skilful way in which he slipped propaganda points into his closing speech. I regret, however, that I am unable to congratulate him on the accuracy of the conclusions which he attempted to draw in his speech, although perhaps it would be unreasonable to expect such accuracy. My delegation can afford to accept with a smile the complaints of the representative of the Soviet Union regarding the lack of democracy and proper democratic institutions in Tanganyika and the failure of the Government of Tanganyika to encourage political parties in the Territory. I can assure him that more than one political party exists in Tanganyika, and that if any individual wishes to start another party he will not be liquidated.

I find it difficult to follow the argument of the representative of the Soviet Union regarding economic and financial affairs in Tanganyika. I confess that I am neither an economist nor a financier, but I suspect that the representative of the Soviet Union suffers from the same disadvantage.

I confess, and I speak now with very real regret, that I was greatly disappointed in the speech of the representative of Haiti, who is usually so objective in his approach to the problems which we discuss in this Council.

(Sir Alan Burns,
United Kingdom)

I was surprised and, I admit, somewhat resentful of his general suggestion that the Administering Authority was not sincerely trying to carry out its responsibilities to Tanganyika under the Charter and was in fact deliberately procrastinating in the promotion of the progress of the Territory. This is a very serious charge which when it is made, as it often is by the representative of the Soviet Union, we can afford to treat with contempt. It is, however, a new departure for the representative of Haiti and I feel it my duty to make a categorical denial of this allegation.

The Government of the United Kingdom is entirely sincere in its intention to develop the Territory of Tanganyika politically, economically, socially and educationally, and to help it, as soon as possible, to responsible self-government. Our past record scarcely justifies any delegation in making such insinuations of bad faith. I can only hope that the representative of Haiti did not intend to convey the painful impression which his unfortunate remarks made in my mind.

The representative of Syria, to whose interesting speech I should like to pay tribute, referred to your own knowledge of Africa, Mr. President, and felt sure that with this experience, you would agree with the views he expressed regarding political questions in Tanganyika. I also have some experience of Africa and I should like to assure my Syrian colleague that I too agree with him as to the general political requirements and with regard to the goal of self-government which we all hope that Tanganyika will achieve. Where we may differ is in regard to methods and timing.

This brings me to the observations of the representative of India, to whose interesting speech I should also like to pay tribute. Mr. Krishna Menon, with his usual eloquence, argued that the Administering Authority must carry out the decisions of the General Assembly, subject only to other obligations they may have towards the Trust Territories. And that is exactly the point. We are bound to do our best for the development of Tanganyika, and we do not consider that it would be in the best interests of the Territory to fix a timetable or to introduce precipitate constitutional reforms for its political advance. Believing this, we could not, in accordance with our responsibility, comply with the wishes of the General Assembly in its resolution dealing with the attainment of self-government or independence.

(Sir Alan Burns,
United Kingdom)

I should like to remind the Council that we had no timetable for Togoland, but this did not prevent us from suggesting to the Council that the time had now arrived for the Trusteeship Agreement for this Territory to be abrogated. It is in the same spirit that we shall carry out our obligations to the Trust Territory of Tanganyika.

I should now be grateful, Mr. President, if you would allow the special representative to reply to certain points of detail raised in this debate.

Mr. GRATTAN-BELLEW (Special representative): The representative of the United Kingdom, in his opening speech, remarked that one cannot expect any dramatic change in the development of a Territory like Tanganyika, but that in fact steady progress was going on year by year. Other representatives, in their speeches, have given recognition to this steady progress which has been made in every field.

As the representative of Syria said, a gigantic task lies ahead of us. Although the Administering Authority and the Government have done much, there is still much more to be done. We are fully aware of the need of expansion in the economic field, in education and in medicine, and also of the need for constitutional and political development. But progress must be balanced and proceed by stages. The pace is limited by factors within the Territory and it does not lie solely at the will of the Administering Authority.

Progress is not like a tap which one can turn on and let progress and development gush forth. It is limited, first of all, by finance. The financial structure of the Territory must be on a sound basis, and the development, in whichever field, must bear proper relation to the finances of the Territory. It is not necessary for it always to be within the immediate ability of the Territory to pay, but it must bear a proper relation to the finances of the Territory for the moment and its prospects. One may look back at Tanganyika and see what has been done there within our own memories.

Some representatives have said that Tanganyika is a wealthy country. I only wish that they were right. Potentially wealthy, yes; and we hope that some day it will be wealthy. But it cannot at the moment be said to be wealthy. What was the position after the War of 1914-18? What was the position at the commencement of the 1939-45 War?

(Mr. Grattan-Bellew, Special
representative)

In the twenties, the budget for Tanganyika was under £2 million. Even in 1939, the total volume of trade was only £7 million, a figure to be compared with the £70 million of today. The budget in 1939 was only a few million pounds.

With those limited resources, progress had to be slow. Until the economic position could be built up and improved, the great progress which has been made in the last ten years was impossible.

The second factor in Tanganyika which limits progress and development is of course education. Until there are sufficient educated local people to fulfil all the posts for which they are needed, progress, particularly in the political and constitutional fields, must be slow. But education is not a thing that one can expand quickly. We must remember that it takes at least sixteen years to educate an individual; and if some of the professions are involved, it takes considerably longer.

One representative said that the Administering Authority's policy was based on the realities of the situation, and that is absolutely correct. Our policy must be so based. We, the Administration, must be realists, if our progress is to be smooth and not disrupt the conditions of the country and the development that is going on.

One is inclined to forget the great progress that has been made in Tanganyika, often in spite of very difficult and serious obstacles. The climate is not kind and the geography of the country does not help us. There are pockets of population and pockets of agricultural and productive land separated by enormous arid areas. That does not make it easy to develop the Territory.

It is with this background in mind that I would ask the representatives always to consider the conditions in Tanganyika.

Several representatives have again brought up the question of the representation in the Legislative Council and what they call the concept of the multi-racial society. Some have agreed that the new Legislative Council has been a great advance in the constitutional development. But, at the same time, they have criticized the principle of the concept. I feel that I must repeat again that there are these three main races in Tanganyika. We did not put them there; we did not cause them to go there. There they are, and we must accept that fact. We must also accept the fact that the great development and progress that has

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representative)

been made is due to a very large extent indeed to the two immigrant races -- the Europeans and the Asians. There is no doubt whatsoever that if it had not been for their presence there and their help, this development could not have taken place as it has. If the pace of development is to be maintained, we must go on relying upon their help, which they willingly give. They are there, and we must use them. Our policy must not lose sight of this fact.

The present Constitution is one which was brought into being as a result of the Constitutional Committee set up about 1950. That Committee had on it representatives of all the races in the Territory; it toured the Territory; and it took evidence from anyone who wished to give evidence before it -- associations, public bodies and private individuals.

The present constitution of the Legislative Council was a unanimous recommendation of that Committee. The basis of it is, of course, to recognize the contribution that each of the races has made and will make in the foreseeable future to progress and development in the Territory. Some representatives have said that the ten Africans in the Legislative Council represent the African population, the ten Asians represent the Asian population and the ten Europeans represent the European population. From this, they argue that this constitution of the Legislative Council is perpetuating racial distinction. But there is a fallacy in that argument. It had been pointed out before, but clearly it has not been stated well enough.

That argument does not take into account what really goes on in Tanganyika and in the Legislative Council. Each member is appointed to represent an area, and he does not represent his race. This has become very apparent during this first year's experience of the new Legislative Council. As I have said, all the men must have approached each question that came before them not as a racial issue but on the issue of what they considered best for the province they were representing or for the Territory as a whole. There has never been a division on a racial basis. There have been divisions in the Council on other bases.

(Mr. Grattan-Bellew, Special representative)

You might see three representatives from one province arguing a point which will favour their province or the conditions in their province against perhaps three representatives from some other province who were taking a different view; but it is never on a racial basis. The divisions have more often been based on local geographical unity and not on racial disunity. This fact will become still clearer when elections are introduced into the Legislative Council because then a candidate to represent a particular area, for instance, one of the provinces, will, if he wishes to be elected, if he wishes to make sure of his election, have to appeal to the voters of all three races. If he were to appeal to the members of his own race only, his chances of election might perhaps be poor.

As has been stated, when elections are introduced it will be on a common roll basis. There seems to have been some doubt in the minds of some representatives as to what was meant by the Administering Authority when it used that expression. If I may put it simply, we mean what we say: that in each constituency there will be one register and every man entitled to vote and who wishes to exercise his right to vote will have his name placed on that register regardless of his race or colour. When it comes to voting, he will be required to vote in order to elect three persons to represent the area in which he is living: an African, an Asian and a European. There will be no question of any form of communal roll. Surely, the representatives here can accept the proposition that a man of one race can properly represent men of other races. I hope they will accept that because it is a fact. It happens in Tanganyika and it is happening now. It is no mere theory or concept which the Administering Authority has put forward; it is a very definite fact.

While on this subject of elections, one or two representatives in their speeches seemed to be not quite sure as to where the Administering Authority and the Government has the intention to introduce elections on a common roll. I think it is sufficient for me to remind the representatives that last year, on the authority of the Secretary of State, it was stated that the next step in constitutional development would be the introduction of elections on a common roll, with appropriate voting qualifications in those areas of the Territory where it was practical and where there was a substantial demand for elections.

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Since then, as I said before, the Governor has indicated that he will make a policy statement concerning elections into the Legislative Council. I think the date is 25 April next. I suggest that those two facts make it quite clear that the Administering Authority proposes to introduce elections for representatives of the Legislative Council.

The suggestion was made again this year that the Constitution of the Legislative Council should be altered when the life of the present Council comes to an end, which will be about this time in 1958. This subject, as some representatives will remember, was discussed very fully and at great length last year. Then I, as special representative, said, "Why condemn the new Constitution before it has been tried out?". I am now in a position to say that it has been tried out and that it has succeeded. It is a success and seems to suit conditions in Tanganyika. Why condemn it now? I would ask: Is it not premature to decide now when this form of representation should terminate? Might it not be wiser counsel to say, "Wait and see how it works when there are elections and then review it?". Of course, the Administering Authority keeps the Constitution in Tanganyika and the way it works under constant review. Although this Constitution is designed to last for a considerable period of time, there would be no hesitation to change it if it ceased to meet the needs of the Territory. But I trust that all will appreciate our reluctance to alter something which seems to us to be good, which seems to us to work, which seems to us to be for the benefit of Tanganyika. To change it merely for the sake of changing it is not wise; I say this because there is no other reason at the moment that I know of.

As has been pointed out, Tanganyika is a vast Territory with very divergent conditions, geographically, climatically and as between the people of the tribes. It is only when one's knowledge improves, when one acquires a greater knowledge of the Territory and its conditions that one can really understand the constitutional position and the racial situation. This fact was emphasized by the representative of Syria when he said yesterday:

"Today, I am glad to say, our apprehensions have almost disappeared"

(T/PV.680, page 7-10) because we appreciate better the position in the Territory. I feel that if one could give the representatives a better picture of the Territory and its conditions, many of the apprehensions one hears expressed would also start to disappear.

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representative)

The representative of India also expressed apprehension, but his apprehension was mostly as to the pace of progress. He made a reference to neighbouring Territories. I could put forward some very substantial and solid arguments to counter what he said, but I do not propose to do so because I do not wish to run the risk of being called to order. If I were so called to order, I think it would be very proper in that case to call me to order. I regret the fact that I am not even going to attempt to put forward those arguments as it would have given me considerable pleasure to have done so. In addition, the representative of India complains that Tanganyika stagnated for twenty years and that politically and constitutionally there was complete stagnation for the ten years between 1945 and 1955. As regards that twenty-year period, I think I have already said enough to indicate why progress had of necessity to be slow. It was because of the conditions and the limiting factors in the Territory itself.

(Mr. Grattan-Bellew,
Special representative)

As regards the years 1945 to 1955, let us see what did happen during that period. The volume of trade rose from 12 million to 70 million. As regards revenue, unfortunately I do not have the figure for 1945 with me, but the figure for 1947 was 5.50 million, which rose to 15 million in 1954 and over 17 million for the year 1955-1956. During this period, the ten-year education plan, which has always been commended by all the representatives and also by UNESCO, was carried out. This plan, as was pointed out yesterday, has increased education threefold, which is no mean achievement, if I may say so. This period and what was done in it resulted in laying the sound foundation for the constitutional and political development which took place this year and for the political and constitutional development which is to take place in the future.

The representative of India himself emphasized this point when he stated, in effect, that education was the keystone to development and progress. Without education one cannot have development and progress, and self-government without an educated population is somewhat of an empty shell. The pace of political progress is not the pace of the slowest, which is said to be the situation in the case of an army, but the pace best suited to the needs of the Territory and acceptable to the people as a whole, within the powers of the Territory to carry out.

It could be argued that in Tanganyika the present pace of development is rather faster than the African as a whole is able to absorb. But that argument will not be allowed to retard the pace of development. I mention this because it shows the other side of the picture -- the views expressed by other people in other places.

The representative of India concluded his statement with three observations. The first concerned the proposal that the Constitution of the Legislative Assembly should be changed in 1958. I think that I have already said enough, in my view, to dispose of that observation.

His second observation concerned the Executive Council. He suggested that the official members of the Executive Council should become advisers. That observation rather surprised me from my learned friend, the representative of India, Mr. Menon, because all the members of the Executive Council are

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Special representative)

advisers. When they sit as members of the Executive Council, their duty is to give their advice according to their conscience to the Governor. The Executive Council is a policy-making body. The representative of India seems to have become confused between the duties of the official members as members of the Executive Council and their duties as the head of a group of departments implementing the policy of the Governor. Other representatives also seemed a little confused about the relevant duties of the Executive Council and of the Legislative Council. I could very easily give a lecture on this topic for one hour, but I do not propose to do so. If those who are indulgent will read again the annual report they will see the real distinction between the two.

One small error of fact was made by one representative when he stated that there were no Africans on the Executive Council. As all members know, there are in fact two Africans on it.

Mr. Menon then went on to say that the unofficials on the Executive Council were not really members of the Council but were purely parliamentary under-secretaries. Under the new arrangement in which they have accepted the Governor's offer to interest themselves in certain departments of the Government, they are in a way parliamentary under-secretaries, but they are also an essential and important part of the Executive Council. Their advice carries great weight in that Council. Owing to their position in the Legislative Council, being a part of the official majority, they have in fact very considerable powers. They could decide to dispute or to oppose any proposed measure which was being considered by the Executive Council.

In due time, of course, when progress has been made, the nature of the Executive Council will change in Tanganyika as it has changed in other Trust Territories under British administration. Foundations for that change have been laid down by inviting the unofficial members to interest themselves in certain departments. In due course, the Executive Council will become, as the representative of India has suggested should happen soon, a cabinet. The time for that change in Tanganyika is not yet ripe.

The third observation was to the effect that the constitutional instruments should in the future contain machinery for the automatic advance in constitutional development. What I think is really meant by this is that power should be given

(Mr. Grattan-Bellew, Special representative)

I think that all I need say about that is this: If I am right in my recollection, Mr. Krishna Menon has met the Governor of Tanganyika on more than one occasion and knows the type of man he is. I put the question to Mr. Menon: Knowing the type of man the Governor is, where does he really think the power lies? In the Governor and in Tanganyika, or in the Colonial Office? I myself know, of course -- but, even if I did not know, by knowing the Governor I would have a very shrewd idea of where power really lies.

Two other matters were raised under this heading of political and constitutional development which I shall deal with shortly. The first is the question of political associations. The Administering Authority and the Government are of the opinion that it is essential to have healthy political organizations in the Territory, and they certainly have not and will not put any bar or any restriction in the way of, and have not done and will not do anything which might prevent or prejudice, the growth of healthy political organizations. That is not a very profound statement. It is an obvious one, of course: that, if you are going to have constitutional and political development, you must have good healthy political organizations.

The Societies Ordinance, when spoken of by some representatives, is always assumed more or less to concern only political organizations. Of course, that is not the case. It concerns every type of society, and its purpose is not to repress societies, not to prevent their formation, but merely to safeguard the public and to ensure that the societies carry on their activities in a way which is not incompatible with or prejudicial to the maintenance of peace, order and good government. Tanganyika is not the only Territory in the world where, in this stage of development, it has been considered desirable to have this safeguard.

The Government's intentions, I suggest, are best inferred from its acts in this matter. On only four occasions to date has there been a refusal to register a society -- four out of 1,200 or 1,300 or 1,400 cases, if my recollection is correct -- and, of those four cases, only one exercised the right of appeal, which rather indicates that the others realized that their activities were not the activities of a proper healthy political organization but were contrary to the maintenance of peace, order and good government.

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Special representative)

in the constitutional instruments to the local legislature and the Governor to confer future constitutions on Tanganyika.

I feel sure that my learned friend, the representative of India, Mr. Menon, when he reflects on this as a lawyer, will realize that in constitutional law there are grave objections to it. As I understand the position in British constitutional law, constitutions for dependent territories are conferred by Her Majesty the Queen, acting on the advice of her ministers in the United Kingdom, and it would not be either proper or desirable to depart from that constitutional position.

The representative of India, in speaking on political and constitutional matters, put the provocative question: Where does the power lie? I rather suspect that that provocative question, and certain other statements of his concerning the Legislative Council, the power to enact legislation and the power of the Governor to withhold his consent, were all aimed directly at me and were rather intended to pull my leg because of my position in Tanganyika as Attorney-General.

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representative)

I myself am of the opinion that this Societies Ordinance will assist political societies because, if a society is a healthy political society, carrying on its activities by constitutional means, the fact that the Government has permitted it to be registered will give the public confidence in that society and the people will know that that political society, if they agree with its ideas and its manifesto, is one which they can very properly support.

The other matter that arose in connexion with political associations was the question of permitting civil servants to join them. This was the subject of a recommendation by the 1951 Visiting Mission and, as a result of a resolution of this Council in 1952, that recommendation was passed on to the Administering Authority and was fulfilled by us. For that reason, when I am discussing this matter here, I am on fairly firm and strong ground. But that is not the reason why this action has been taken. In answer, I think, to the representative of Belgium, I explained that it is the view of the Government of Tanganyika that it is essential to build up a Tanganyikan civil service composed of the people of Tanganyika, whether they are Africans or Asians or Europeans, which is absolutely impartial in carrying out its work and, so far as possible, to keep it in a state above suspicion and untainted by any political connexion.

In a Territory like Tanganyika, it is difficult, I think, for the African, who is not yet a very sophisticated person, to draw a distinction between being a member of a political association and being an active member of it. I have never been a member of any political association, but I can easily conceive that a man can be a member of an association in the sense of privately agreeing with its views, subscribing funds to it, voting the party ticket at election time, and so on. But I think that to the unsophisticated African such a type of membership is a very difficult thing to conceive. If a man is a member of an association, I think that to the African it means that he is taking an active part in the affairs of that association.

But apart from that, in my submission, the principle is sound. Further, I do not think that it in any way retards the growth of African political associations.

I have told the Council of the test we made, taking the year 1950 and following the careers of those who passed out of the schools from Standards 10 and 12. We took those two standards because the complaint was that educated Africans were being debarred from joining political associations and that there

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would not be sufficiently educated Africans in them. Members of the Council now know the result: In five years -- since 1950 -- only 38 per cent are in government service. Some 60 per cent are probably free to join any political association they wish.

I do not think it is necessary for me to say very much about progress in the local government field. What has been done has received general approval. The majority of representatives have expressed gratification at this method and at the progress that has been made.

In this sphere, I was asked one question about the Chiefs Ordinance. That ordinance does not set up a new class of chiefs. It is simply dealing with the traditional chiefs, who are now ceasing more and more to be hereditary and are becoming more and more the elected representatives of their people. It is simply giving statutory recognition to that class of chiefs, whether they be hereditary or elected, and making provision to govern the procedure concerning them.

(Mr. Grattan-Bellew,
Special representative)

In my view it was a very wise measure, It controls, if necessary, the way they should be appointed, and, if they should act improperly, the way they may be deposed. It was considered desirable to do this when the Local Government Ordinance was enforced because in those areas where local councils were being set up it was, in this transitional stage, still necessary to have a chief for certain purposes, and it looked as though the chief was going to be left rather in the air because the Native Authority Ordinance was not going to apply and he would have no statutory recognition and no statute governing or controlling his position. There is nothing sinister about it. It does not show that the Government intends to perpetuate for ever the tribal system or the position of chiefs. I think myself that it can be described as a very appropriate and good piece of administrative machinery.

Some comments were made with regard to the civil service. The policy of the Government is to create a Tanganyikan civil service. It will eventually, of course, be mostly African, though I see no reason why those Asians in it now, or other Asians who have made Tanganyika their home, should not also play their part in the administration and be in the civil service if they wish to serve Tanganyika that way. The only limiting factor is again that of education. If there were more well educated Africans in the Territory I can assure representatives that there would be more in the civil service holding higher and higher posts. That is the sole and only limitation, and, as I said in my opening remarks, there is no quick remedy for it. It will be at least fifteen years before a boy who goes to school today finishes his education, and probably more. It is bound to be slow, but as and when educated Africans finish their education and are willing to take the civil service as their career they will be incorporated into it at the appropriate place where their qualifications, attributes and qualities justify, but there is no intention to lower the standard of the service in order to increase the Tanganyikan element in it, whether that element happens to be African, Asian or European. I stress again the importance, in a developing territory progressing towards self-government, of the standard of the civil service being maintained, and even raised if that is possible.

(Mr. Grattan-Bellew,
Special Representative)

I now turn to the question of the economy of the Territory. On the whole I think I am right in saying that representatives approved of what has been done and were gratified at the great progress that has been made. The representative of the Soviet Union, however, tried to belittle the Development Plan which is just finishing. He tried, by mathematical calculation, to rather ridicule it. No doubt his mathematics were correct. I have not checked them; I do not think they are worth checking, because there is absolutely no conclusion whatsoever to be drawn from the result of his mathematics.

I am, perhaps, in a unique position as a special representative because this year I can say that I absolutely and entirely agree with one statement by the representative of the Soviet Union. He said that perhaps his delegation was less well acquainted with Africa than the other delegations. Every other statement in his speech bore this out to the full, and I entirely agree with it, but it is the only statement I think that I do agree with.

Suggestions were also made, in connexion with the economic sphere, that the Administering Authority derived a great, invisible gain from Tanganyika by importing its goods into the Territory. I do not think that that was a fair criticism. As was pointed out by one representative -- I believe it was the representative of Australia -- the trade of Tanganyika is pretty diverse. The United Kingdom may be the biggest trader, both as regards imports and exports, but in fact only one third of the volume of trade is with the United Kingdom. Two thirds are with other countries, India being the second biggest importer into the Territory. The United Kingdom imported into Tanganyika in 1954 goods to the value of £13 million, but on the other hand it took from Tanganyika exports to the value of approximately £15 million -- £100,000 one way or the other, I forget which. Is that not a very proper trading arrangement -- or it just happens perhaps -- and very proper inter-territorial trading, balancing the exports by the imports? There is no doubt that the United Kingdom has benefit by importing into Tanganyika, and there is certainly no doubt that Tanganyika has benefit by getting £15 million worth of exports to the United Kingdom.

(Mr. Grattan-Bellaw,
Special representative)

Then it was said that the African was the greatest producer, producing £60 million worth out of £80 million worth and that he received very little value for it. Well, it is true that he produced £60 million worth, but more than half of that -- probably £40 million worth of it -- is food which he produces for his own consumption. And therefore that is, as often is the case when one starts using statistics, a rather misleading statement. As regards what one might call the external trade, in my submission the African receives very good value. He is quite a substantial producer of goods which are exported, and now, with the help of the Government and through co-operatives, he is entering into the selling and marketing of those goods himself.

As I told representatives, in Bukoba the marketing of coffee has been taken over by the Co-operative Union, and they are buying their own curing station now. In the Lake province the Governor has laid the foundation stone for an African co-operative ginnery. These are all signs and more evidence of the Government's policy in this respect.

I was pleased to hear the general appreciation of the progress made in co-operative development, but one must be careful in making progress in co-operative development just as one must be careful in schemes for interesting the African directly in the developments taking place in this area. For example, before the Makondi Water Corporation was established months and months of careful thought and working out of details had to be undertaken to ensure that when that corporation was set up it would not be a failure. We could not afford a failure there, any more than we can afford a failure in the wattle scheme in the Southern Highlands, because a failure in a scheme of that sort at this stage would mean that the next time we put up a project such as this to the African he would draw back, understandably, and say, "Well, these schemes of yours don't seem to be very successful. We would rather carry on in our own way".

(Mr. Grattan-Bellew, Special representative)

The same applies to co-operative development. At this stage it is most important that the developments be carefully supervised and organized to try to ensure no failures, because one bad failure in either sphere, the co-operative sphere or the schemes whereby the African takes a direct part in modern commerce and industry, would set back the whole programme a long way.

The representative of India also raised two other matters and apologized for raising them in his speech because he said that they should have been raised at question time. But I propose, as he has raised them, to deal with them.

The first was about diamonds. He said that the output was small: was that because of outside influence or some cartel to keep up prices? Whether the output is small or not is probably a matter of opinion, but the two diamond mines operating in Tanganyika have disposed of their total output up to now. I cannot say what is happening at the moment because I do not know, but presumably they will be disposing of their total output. There is no outside influence restricting diamond mining. There is no cartel keeping up prices which has affected the diamond output of Tanganyika. From Tanganyika's point of view, its diamond industry is a most important one. The people of the Territory get a very fair and proper share of the profits by way of royalties and income tax. It forms an important part of our revenue, and the Government keeps careful control over prospecting for diamonds and diamond mining because if the matter of control was relaxed, it might well be that a situation would arise in which the Government would not be getting its fair share of the profits from the mining of diamonds. The output there is, of course, year by year, and the biggest mine only came into full production in 1955. But in my own view, -- of course, ~~these things are~~ relative -- I would not call the output small.

The representative of India also mentioned gold; I am not quite sure why. Gold, unfortunately, has not been very profitable for some of the mines in Tanganyika. It is better now and a new mine is about to open up. But there is no restriction, no outside influence affecting our output.

(Mr. Grattan-Bellew, Special
representative)

The second point was concerning immigration. He referred to statistics and said that he was concerned because a hundred and eighty-three persons were shown as having entered Tanganyika and their place of origin was stated to be South Africa. I am not concerned about this. But, in fact, of course, he does not say that that table does not show the race or nationality of the persons and, to use his own expression, if one weighed that figure of a hundred and eighty-three -- I have not got the details here -- I would not be at all surprised to find that more than half of them were Indians migrating from South Africa to Tanganyika and not South African nationals at all.

Next, he said that, although the law was framed for equality of entry amongst all, in fact, in practice it did not work out that way. In this respect the representative of India is wrong. If one looks at the figures, one may see that more Asians or more Indians are refused permission to enter the Territory than Europeans, but that is not because of race. The sole consideration is: will this man's work in Tanganyika be for the benefit of the Territory? There are certain classes of employment where we fear unemployment for Africans and local Asians in the near future if we are not careful. The Asian and African populations are increasing. That refers particularly to the clerical services, semi-skilled labour, and so on. Unfortunately, the well-qualified doctors and other professional men from India do not apply to come to Tanganyika, but many shop assistants, clerical people and semi-skilled labourers do; and they are refused because it would not be in the interests of the inhabitants of Tanganyika to permit them to enter. In the case of Europeans, most of the Europeans, apart from those in Government service, are concerned with commerce and industry, or are professional and technical men. And Tanganyika needs them and needs more of them -- not Europeans, but technical men, professional men, and men who are well-trained in commerce and business. That is solely the reason. This is another example of how misleading statistics can be if, as the representative of India has said, one is not in a position to weigh them properly.

(Mr. Grattan-Bellew, Special representative)

Finally, the representative of India complained because the Tanganyika Government rescinded a regulation which conferred a privilege on certain people. It is stated that if a girl who is a permanent resident in Tanganyika marries a man outside the Territory, then the husband, as of right, enters the Territory -- to my mind a peculiar provision because, as a rule, the man does not follow the wife, but the wife follows the man. But the Government of Tanganyika had no objection to it really until it ascertained that very grave and serious abuses were taking place in order to evade the immigration control. Apart from what might be called last-minute marriages, when a man on a visitor's pass, for example, or one whose permit has expired and who knows that he is about to be deported or that the immigration office is about to order his deportation, at the last moment marries a young girl of twelve or sixteen years of age, young men in their teens marry very elderly women purely for the purpose of getting into the Territory. I am glad to say that there were not a great many cases, but far too many, and the Government, as I think any self-respecting Government would do, decided that this must stop, and so it repealed this privilege, because a privilege it was. It was stated when this was done that if any hard case was put up to the Government, it would be considered on its merits. Up to the date I left the Territory, no such case had been put forward. Of course, this does not prevent a husband from coming to Tanganyika to join his wife; all we ask is that he should be in a position to comply, as anyone else would have to comply, with the immigration legislation. As a matter of fact, it has been announced officially in Tanganyika that when the new legislation comes into force this year, the regulations will be redrafted and some sort of exemption for these husbands will be introduced -- not on the wide scale that existed before, but in some form which, we hope, will stop these very grave and serious abuses.

(Mr. Grattan-Bellew,
Special representative)

Urban and rural houses were mentioned several times. One representative talked about a "housing crisis". Well, thank goodness we have no housing crisis. There is a shortage of houses in Tanganyika or certain places and for certain people, just as there is in other parts of the world, but that shortage is really in the towns. There is no housing problem in the rural areas. The African builds his traditional type of house, which he finds suitable for his needs and requirements, and he can build it quite easily.

The housing problem only arises in the towns, and we are dealing with it, I think satisfactorily, by the Government building houses and renting them, by the new African Housing Loan, and when the new £2,000,000 Corporation comes into being, I think we will then solve the problem.

As regards community development in the rural areas, the Government is fully aware of that, and the Social Welfare Department has community development as one of its objectives. It operates to a very large extent, if I may put it this way, through the native and local authorities. The Government assists with finance, particularly community projects, and the Social Welfare Department, as well as the administrative officers, give advice and the benefit of their great experience. The administrative officers, the district officers, the assistant district officers, and the district commissioners, of course, are each concerned with community development and take a personal interest in it. I do not think there is any need to have an over-all plan. I doubt if any such plan would be practicable in a Territory so vast and with conditions so diverse as in Tanganyika.

Mention was made of corporal punishment. There is no need for me to repeat the Government's policy as to that, because it is well known, but the comments which were made will be conveyed to the Administering Authority and to the Government, and these comments will be given careful consideration.

The representative of Guatemala was concerned about the Press. He was not concerned about the freedom of the Press, but he thought it might be better if we had a special Press law and special Press courts. Of course, the representative of Guatemala has been brought up under a different system of law, but I personally have a dislike of special courts. I prefer that we have the courts of the land and all men, regardless of their race, colour, profession or occupation equal before those courts. I am not suggesting that in his country the position is

(Mr. Grattan-Bellew,
Special representative)

otherwise, but I prefer one kind of court. The idea of Press courts and Press laws is somewhat foreign to the British system of justice and I think probably it would be enormously opposed by that powerful body, the Imperial Press Association, which takes a great interest in the activities of the Press in all British Territories.

Further, I do not think that such a system is necessary. I think that our common law as to libel and slander is very fairly weighed as between the writer of an article, or the Press in this case, and the member of the public who might complain. It does not hamper the freedom of the Press, but it is a very worthy check if they should perhaps tend to abuse the rights of freedom of speech and freedom of expression.

Certain observations have been made about our land policy. I should like to repeat the last statement made by the Secretary-of-State concerning land policy in Tanganyika. He said:

"The policy is to ensure that there will be sufficient land available to meet the needs of future generations, that is, inhabitants of all races who have made their homes in Tanganyika, and only to permit alienation of land to newcomers in special circumstances or for purposes where it is necessary to obtain a particular development which the Territory cannot undertake out of its own resources."

I do not think it would be in the interests of the Territory or of the people of the Territory and of the Africans to change that policy and to state that there will be no more alienation of land. I dislike quoting figures, but I am forced to in this case. It must be remembered that there are 43,000,000 acres of what the experts call "productive land not yet cultivated or not yet opened up". That land, in order for it to become productive, requires capital, except in the case of small pieces. It requires capital and ability, and it is not within the ability of any African to do it at the present time. But it can be greatly to the African's advantage to have some of that land brought into production. That increases the economy of the Territory which, in turn, enables expansion in education, medicine and political development. It creates employment and it can clear back the tse-tse fly. It can bring water to areas where there has been no water before. But that all takes capital and skill, and at the moment the African has neither.

Some suggestions were also made that we should institute registration of the land held under native law and custom and that we should change that form of tenure. In answering questions on that, I indicated, perhaps wrongly, my own private views on the matter, because the answer really must be that the Royal Commission in its report has made recommendations concerning this question, and we must await the publication of the views of the Government and the Administering Authority on the Royal Commission's report before we can really enter into discussion on it.

Lastly, as regards land, criticism has been levelled at rights of occupancy for ninety-nine years. Really, the length of the right of occupancy is a matter of business and commerce. We do not wish to alienate land to non-Africans where the land is in good heart, where a man can go in and start cultivation with little capital and little knowledge. The land we are alienating is land which has a fairly high risk attached to it. It requires capital, it requires resources, and it may require waiting five, six, seven or eight years before there is any return on the money invested. It is a matter of business and negotiation.

Would any representative take on that proposition knowing that his title would last for only thirty-three years? Having heard the question put to me, I am fairly confident that no representative would undertake a risk like that if he was only going to have thirty-three years in which to get a return on his money.

(Mr. Grattan-Bellew,
Special representative)

This now brings me perhaps to the two remaining matters: medicine and education. There is no need for me to say anything about medicine. The progress we have made has been noted. The whole key to medical development is of course now the training of local personnel, whether they be European, Asian or African. They will obviously be predominantly African. If we can train more people as doctors, nurses, midwives and hospital assistants, then we can expand further the medical services.

But that in turn is dependent, as everything is, on education, and education is dependent on finance. As regards education, the new five-year plan is being prepared and my guess -- I think it is also the guess of UNESCO and several representatives -- is that the emphasis will be on the expansion of the middle-school, and expansion elsewhere, of course, where it can be undertaken within the limits of finance. I also wish to emphasize myself that what is needed is a raising of the standard, because it is the lowness of the standard which has caused the target not to be reached in the secondary schools and which is hampering us in the number of Africans that we can send to institutes of higher education outside the Territory. All these institutes do demand, and rightly so, a certain standard of education. The fact that our schools are run by race has been criticized.

In my submission, at this stage, that is inevitable. It is desirable in the primary school that the children should be taught in their mother tongues. It has been suggested that we should mix the classes in the schools. Why mix the classes in the schools? It would increase administrative costs; it would be uneconomic, and it would simply curtail the expansion of the education programme; that is all. And what advantage would be gained? A negligible one.

That is one reason. The second reason is the financial structure, and that is a very serious obstacle which I do not think is fully appreciated by some representatives. The European pays, and by this I mean that he pays personally by fees and by an education tax for the education of his children. Except for a very small amount, it does not come out of the general revenue of the Territory as such. The Asian very substantially pays for the education of his children.

(Mr. Grattan-Bellew,
Special representative)

The African pays next to nothing. It is only recently that fees have been fixed for all schools. But even now those fees are nominal. The boarding fee for the boys' secondary school at Tabora is, I think, 280 shillings a year; that is all. If one was going to have mixed schools, I do not frankly know how we would deal with this financial aspect, unless we are going to start discrimination in favour of the Africans as regards schools. That is so contrary to the whole of the Government's policy. We are trying to do away with all discrimination as far as we can, and I do not think that the Government would contemplate this at the present time.

But the policy is, as was stated last year, that eventually there should be only one school system for all the people, and it is thought that in due course the best way of starting it would be, not from the bottom, where there would be other objections besides financial ones, but from the top.

As regards technical education, some criticism has been made, and I think the criticism was fair as regards the position as it did exist. But I think that our plans now will provide sufficient opportunities for vocational training for the output of the schools within the foreseeable future, particularly when the technical institute at Dar es Salaam gets into full swing.

With regard to an institute of higher education, our intentions of course are manifest now. We have started this trust fund with £700,000 in it. But I wish to offer a word of warning here. What form that institute should take has not been decided. Quite obviously it would be useless for Tanganyika to start, let us say next year, a university college. Apart from the enormous expense that would not be justified, we would not have the candidates, the students, even to fill the very fringe of it at present. But I can assure the representatives that when the time comes for the need for a university college in Tanganyika, there will be one there. But the immediate need may be for some kind of technical or professional college rather than a university college.

Finally, I would like to thank the representatives for their very constructive criticisms and helpful suggestions which they have made. Constructive criticisms and helpful suggestions are always welcome to the Adminis'ering Authority and to the Government of Tanganyika, and we will give very careful consideration to them.

(Mr. Grattan-Bellew,
Special representative)

I would also like to thank the representatives for their courtesy in questioning me and for the complimentary remarks which some of them have made.

Mr. DORSINVILLE (Haiti)(interpretation from French): In effect, when I listened to the statement made by the representative of the United Kingdom, I was really surprised, because I wondered how it is that the United Kingdom representative could have interpreted my statement in the way he did. I speak French, as you know, and it was only this afternoon that I could see the text of the verbatim record and immediately I noticed certain slight variations in the French text, but I was still surprised. My colleague from Australia then gave me the English text and I understood why the representative of the United Kingdom made the statement which he did about my speech.

I must say that the criticism which he voiced and the observations which he made are not applicable to the French text of my speech. We sit here and speak various languages. Now I am not a past master in English; therefore, I will take the text as it can be found in English in the procès-verbal.

(Mr. Dorsinville, Haiti)

Thanks to the kindness of my colleague from Australia, I have been able to glance at the English text, and I must say that I was surprised at what I saw. We have interpreters and these interpreters render a great service. Without them, we really would not understand each other. I do not want to criticize these interpreters, but I must say that I regret that the simultaneous interpretation on which this was based was not exact.

There are three or four points which I noticed and which were mentioned by the representative of the United Kingdom. I will now point these out.

One of the paragraphs on page 7 of the English text has me say the following:

(continued in English)

"The Administration has pointed out quite rightly that the liberalism of the Administering Authority is functioning inversely, or rather, it has often been said that the liberalism of the policy of the Administration is inversely proportionate to the presence of foreign settlers." (T/PV.679)

(continued in French)

That is not exactly what I said. I am made to attribute the Administering Authority a position which I never attributed to it in my text. The French text reads as follows:

"The observation is not mine, but it has been said, certainly with justice, that the liberalism of the Administering Authority is inversely proportional with the importance of the presence of the colonists in the given Territory." (T/PV.679, French text, page 7, new interpretation)

You see the difference between the English and French texts.

There is something else to be brought out. There is a paragraph in the English text which reads as follows:

(continued in English)

"In the case of Tanganyika, one can fear that the policy followed is a deliberate one to procrastinate and which leaves unsolved, for all too long a time, the problem as to when the African element will gain supremacy. In the Legislative Council the parity of representation is a bad mask for the fact that the share of the African is a poor one." (Ibid, page 8-10)

(Mr. Dorsinville, Haiti)

(continued in French)

May I refer to the French text? Here I read the following:

"In the case of Tanganyika, it may be feared that the policy followed is a deliberate one of procrastination which leaves for too long without a satisfactory answer the question as to when the African element will have preponderance. In the Legislative Council, the parity of representation conceals poorly the fact that, taking account of the groups represented, the part assigned to the Africans is derisory." (T/PV.679, French text, pp. 8-10, new interpretation).

The first observation relates to the point of procrastination. It would appear that in English this word is highly derogatory in its connotations. In the French text, there certainly exists a critical element. However, it does not have the connotations that the English text would attribute to it.

If you look at what I have to say at the beginning as to the application of Article 76 of the Charter, you will find the following:

"It is difficult to reconcile the generous interpretation of the spirit of the Charter with the measured interpretation given to it in Tanganyika in respect of the indigenous inhabitants." (T/PV.679, French text, page 7, new interpretation).

My text means that I interpret the spirit of the Charter generously and that I found that the Administering Authority gave a measured interpretation of it, which means that we are perhaps in disagreement as to the pace to be followed under the circumstances. But if there is a derogatory sense in the word "procrastination", I do not think that after my explanation the representatives of the Administering Authority will feel that we had sought to suggest that there had been bad faith on the part of the Administering Authority. Surely we disagree on many things. I think that I have already had the occasion for many years now to make these points in the General Assembly and in this Council. But I have always done my best in my observations and criticisms alike to use the word which is most accurate and which is not offensive. I do not believe in the virtues of gratuitous insults. I am a representative of a small country which is very sensitive to criticisms and observations. Like the representative of the Administering Authority, I feel that excessive criticism can wound. In this case, I certainly did not seek to wound or to give offence or to give umbrage to the Administering Authority.

(Mr. Dorsinville, Haiti)

There is also another shading here. When I said "ill conceals", it was translated as "a bad mask". I am not a master of the English language, but I submit that "a bad mask" is not a proper translation there.

There is another observation. I noted that the special representative said that a representative had said that no indigenous representatives were to be found in the Executive Council, whereas the special representative well knows that there are two of them. I look at the French text. It reads as follows:

"In the Executive Council, there is so far only a single autochthonous element."

(T/PV.679, French text, page 9-10, new interpretation)

The English text says:

"There is not a single native representative in the Executive Council."

(Ibid., page 11)

I do not think I have to pursue the analysis of this text further. I would simply request the Secretariat to take account of these observations which I wanted to have entered in the record so that the English text should actually represent what I sought to convey in my French words. These words surely contained no intention to give offence to the representative of the United Kingdom.

Sir Alan BURNS (United Kingdom): I am most grateful to the representative of Haiti for what he has said. There appears to be some confusion in interpretation here. I am sure that he will forgive me for having formed an entirely false impression as I listened to him through the English interpretation and for being very surprised at what I thought he was saying. This was confirmed when I read the English verbatim record this morning. As he, himself, has quoted from this record, it is hardly necessary for me to do so. But I was surprised to see at the top of page 11 of the verbatim record that there is not a single native representative in the Executive Council.

The paragraph to which I perhaps took the greatest exception was the one which the representative of Haiti also read, where the following is clearly stated in the English interpretation: "...one can fear that the policy followed is a deliberate one to procrastinate...", (Ibid., page 8-10) and then it goes on to use the words "a bad mask" which, I am bound to say, in the English translation is not a very flattering observation. I took pains when I was speaking, in

(Sir Alan Burns, United Kingdom)

expressing my surprise at what had been said, to emphasize the fact that the representative of Haiti has always been so objective in his approach that I was particularly surprised to hear these remarks from him. I am very pleased now to have heard his explanation. I hope that we now understand one another, that this mistake will be corrected and that our long continued friendship will not be in any way interfered with by this unfortunate incident.

Mr. BARGUES (France) (interpretation from French): I take the liberty of intervening because the problem has been raised by the representative of Haiti, the problem of difficulties of translation from one language to the other. He paid tribute to the interpreters and to the translators, and I should like to endorse that tribute. It is incontestable that one of the difficulties into which we run in the course of our debates relates to the fact that we do not speak the same language. I must say that the difficulty is very great in this particular case, owing to the fact that the French language -- which has some drawbacks -- has one quality which few other languages possess. In this connexion, I should like to make the point that our colleague from Haiti handled the French language, which is his mother tongue, with great elegance and purity, which indicates the fact that the French spoken in Haiti has retained perhaps a purity which it has lost in part in France, and perhaps in Belgium. I am sure that my colleague from Belgium will agree with me on this point. It is incontestable that French -- and particularly the French spoken in Haiti -- has a capacity to express shadings which few other languages possess, perhaps some other Latin languages -- I apologize to my colleagues from Guatemala and Italy. I apologize to my English-speaking colleagues for saying this, but English, which has other qualities, and especially practical qualities which the French language does not have, does not have the capacity for shadings that French has.

I simply wanted to make these observations in order to arrive at my conclusion which is to regret that French is not any more, as it once used to be, the only diplomatic language.

Mr. COHEN (Under-Secretary, Department of Trusteeship): I have heard the observations made concerning the verbatim record which is drawn up from the simultaneous interpretation given from the booths above this Council while someone is speaking in another language. This verbatim record is put together for the convenience of the members of the Council; it is not the official record of the proceedings of the Council. With more time at hand and resorting to the sound track which is taken of the original speaker, the précis-writers produce a summary record which is distributed to the members of the Council for such corrections as they may wish to bring to it. After the corrections are made, the summary record is then the official record of the meeting. We have noted the observations made, and the Secretariat will do whatever is necessary to correct the errors which have been pointed out.

May I bring to the attention of the Council a matter which is not relevant to this particular item. Upon his recent return from a trip to countries in South East Asia and the South Pacific, the Secretary-General stated that among the most significant impressions and information which he had gathered during that trip were those he had received while visiting some of the Community Development projects which are now under way in many of the less developed economic areas of that region. He felt that because the Trusteeship Council deals with many territories in a similar degree of under-development, it might be worthwhile for him to share with the Council those impressions and the information already at hand in the Secretariat.

I have advised the President of this desire of the Secretary-General. He was very much impressed by the fact that yesterday the representative of India, Mr. Krishna Menon, indicated and suggested that it might be advisable for the Department of Economic Affairs to place at the disposal of the Council the materials and experts in this particular field of economic and community Development.

The Secretary-General will be very glad, Mr. President, with your consent, to come to this Council in the course of the coming week and to make his own ideas known to the members of this principal organ of the United Nations.

The PRESIDENT: I should like to ask the Under-Secretary to please inform the Secretary-General that he is always very welcome in this Council. We look forward to hearing him.

With the statement of the special representative, we have concluded the general debate on Tanganyika. In accordance with established practice, we now have to set up a drafting committee on that Territory. In that connexion, I wish to nominate the following members: Burma, India, New Zealand and the United States of America. If there is no objection, it will be so decided.

It was so decided.

Mr. Grattan-Bellew withdrew.

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

EXAMINATION OF CONDITIONS IN THE CAMEROONS UNDER BRITISH ADMINISTRATION (T/L.639):

- (a) ANNUAL REPORT OF THE ADMINISTERING AUTHORITY FOR 1954 (T/1208, 1222 and 1223) [Agenda item 3c]
- (b) PETITIONS CIRCULATED UNDER RULE 85, PARAGRAPH 2, OF THE RULES OF PROCEDURE OF THE TRUSTEESHIP COUNCIL (T/PET.4/L.1, 1/Add.1, 2 and 3) [Agenda item 4]
- (c) REPORT OF THE UNITED NATIONS VISITING MISSION TO THE TRUST TERRITORIES OF THE CAMEROONS UNDER FRENCH ADMINISTRATION, 1955 (T/1226, 1226/Corr.1 (English only), 1226/Corr.2 (French only) and 1234) [Agenda item 6a]

At the invitation of the President, Brigadier Gibbons, special representative for the Cameroons under United Kingdom administration, took a place at the Trusteeship Council table.

Economic advancement

Mr. GERIG (United States of America): I have one or two questions that relate to the perennial problem of making credit available in particular to the small farmers and small business men. Are there any new plans as to how this might be done? We were wondering in particular whether the new co-operative societies might in certain instances serve as a vehicle for making small loans to farmers and businesses.

Brigadier GIBBONS (Special representative): There are plans for the provision of credit to small farmers. With regard to co-operative societies, it is not our policy in the Territory to use them as a source of credit to small holders because experience has taught the department over the years that if one does that, there is a tendency to weaken the value of these societies as productive businesses. We propose that the principal source of credit for the small holder should be the new Southern Cameroons Regional Production Development Board, which already exists on the statute book and was actually coming into existence just after I left the Territory for my trip here. The personnel for the Board had just been selected. Funds with which to start the Board had already

(Brigadier Gibbons,
Special representative)

been allocated from the Southern Cameroons Marketing Board, and further funds were about to come to it from the assets attributable to the Southern Cameroons at present in the hands of the Eastern Regional Development Corporation. It was in accordance with a recommendation of the International Bank Mission that we decided to amalgamate the Board dealing with loans to small holders with the Board dealing with production and development matters generally.

Mr. GERIG (United States of America): I have a question concerning a reference in the Visiting Mission's report which states that negotiations have been under way with a large British chocolate concern to operate a cocoa plantation in the Kumba Division. What is the stage of the negotiations, and what is the nature of the operation?

Brigadier GIBBONS (Special representative): When I left the Territory my impression was that all that was required to be done concerning these negotiations was the drawing up of the actual documents necessary for the issuance of the certificate of occupancy over the land required, the acquisition of which had already been arranged with the local inhabitants. Then this large cocoa enterprise would establish a plantation for growing cocoa which would cover something like 1,000 acres. It should become an extremely valuable contribution to the economy of the Territory in approximately seven or eight years.

Mr. GERIG (United States of America): Was this tract of 1,000 acres of land leased or bought outright? In what way was it secured by the concern?

Brigadier GIBBONS (Special representative): The intention is that it will be granted for a term of years to this concern under a certificate of occupancy issued in the name of the Governor-General by the Commissioner of the Cameroons to whom the Governor-General's powers in this respect have been delegated. Rent will be paid for the land to the Southern Cameroons Government,

(Brigadier Gibbons,
Special representative)

from which we shall make payments, in proportions that have not yet been decided, partly to the local land holders and partly to the local native administration.

Mr. GERIG (United States of America): I should also like to ask a question in connexion with the mission of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development. Apparently it had made some recommendations concerning the fiscal reorganization of the Cameroons Development Corporation, but that these recommendations were not adopted by the Corporation. This may be too technical a question and I am not sure whether the information is available, but we were wondering on what general grounds the Corporation found the recommendations from a group like this to be not applicable in this situation.

Brigadier GIBBONS (Special representative): I am very grateful to the representative of the United States for this opportunity to provide some elucidation of this statement in the corporation's annual report, which, I must say, I thought did need some explanation when I first saw it.

The International Bank mission put its finger upon what certainly is the most obvious major problem of the affairs of the Cameroons Development Corporation, and therefore one of the most important questions affecting the fiscal position of the Trust Territory. The visiting Bank mission observed, from a study of the balance sheets and statement of account of the corporation over the last period of years, that, in spite of very considerable business turnover, the output of the corporation in the shape of profits to be placed at the disposal of the inhabitants of the Territory was small. The mission recommended that some reorganization of the financing of the corporation should be made in order that the corporation might make a larger contribution to the welfare of the Territory, which the International Bank mission felt the size and prosperity of the undertaking would justify.

The financial reorganization which the International Bank mission advocated, of course, depends immediately and completely upon the provision of large sums of capital for the use of the corporation. The reason why the profits actually paid over by the corporation to the people of the Territory are so small is that the corporation is under-capitalized and, whereas a purely commercial undertaking of that size would undoubtedly have a very much larger share capital than the capital which this corporation deploys in the shape of Government loans and bank overdrafts, the corporation is so poorly provided with capital that it is financing a great deal of its development work, both on the economic side and on the social side, out of its annual receipts from trading operations.

What I personally feel, and what obviously the International Bank mission felt, to be required is the provision, somehow or other, of more capital funds to enable the corporation to apply more of its trading profits to the welfare of the Southern Cameroons.

I presume that the reason why the corporation stated in this rather bald manner, in its annual report, that it had rejected the suggestion of the International Bank mission was that it had not yet succeeded in obtaining the additional capital which would be required to implement it.

(Brigadier Gibbons,
Special representative)

This is a position which is under examination by the corporation itself and by the Government of the Southern Cameroons and the federal authorities of Nigeria, and I am afraid that all I can say at the present time is that we are considering what means there are of obtaining additional capital for the corporation to enable us to do precisely what the International Bank mission thought was possible.

Mr. ARAGON (Guatemala)(interpretation from Spanish): My first question concerns the matter touched upon by the United States representative, namely, the Development Corporation. I must say that we are making an effort to understand the various characteristics of these English institutions, because we always have in mind our own experience in Latin America. I have been surprised to see that the Development Corporation stands at the head of a list of private enterprises given in the report. I understand that it is more like a private enterprise than like a real development corporation. Also, I have read that the International Bank concerned itself with this Development Corporation and issued certain recommendations. What I should like to ask is whether, in conformity with the most recent events in the Territory, the Administration has contemplated changing somewhat the policy of the Development Corporation so that it could really be a development corporation -- that is, developing agriculture and industry so as to train businessmen and small private business enterprises, among the indigenous population especially. In general terms, I should like clarification or supplementary information with regard to the future policy of the Development Corporation there.

Brigadier GIBBONS (Special representative): I think perhaps I ought to say a word or two about the two different corporations that we shall very shortly be having in the Southern Cameroons for looking after the economic development of the country. I think that the corporation that the representative of Guatemala has just referred to is the existing Cameroons Development Corporation. I should, I think, remind the Council that the Cameroons Development Corporation is a body which was brought into existence for the specific purpose of developing, on behalf of the inhabitants of the Territory,

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the former German estates in the Southern Cameroons which passed into British hands as a result of the war. It was decided at the end of the war that, when these estates had to be disposed of, they should not be sold, as they had been previously, to private enterprise, but should be purchased by the Nigerian Government and placed under the control of a corporation which is established under law with the legal obligation of making money for the country and for nobody else. That is the nature of the Cameroons Development Corporation. It is not charged with any functions of developing agriculture or industry beyond the borders of the estates which have actually been placed by the ordinance under its operation.

As I indicated in reply to an earlier question, we are also at the point of establishing another body which is to be known as the Southern Cameroons Production Development Board and which will handle funds allocated to it out of the money made by the Southern Cameroons Marketing Board on the handling of Southern Cameroons produce. This Board, which is a statutory board, having partly an official, but mainly a nominated unofficial, membership -- the unofficial members being nominated in consultation with the Leader of Government Business -- will be able to operate throughout the Territory and will work in different ways.

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It will, on some occasions, establish agricultural or industrial concerns of its own and try to make a success of them. On other occasions, it will go into partnership with foreign capital that may be interested in various forms of development in the country so that we can keep a local representation upon the boards of any companies which are there formed, and it will also use some of its funds in making loans to small indigenous concerns and individual farmers to help them to make a success of their undertakings.

Mr. SCHEYVEN (Belgium) (interpretation from French): With regard to the Cameroons Development Corporation I should like to emphasize the fact that during my last stay in the Cameroons under British Administration I repeatedly heard from representatives of political parties or from indigenous private persons, praise of that Corporation. Many went out of their way to stress how much good it had brought to the country. Various persons whom we received and who spoke about the Corporation had only one request to make -- that more bodies like it should be set up to develop the country more comprehensively.

In the absence of such corporations would it not be possible to modify the boundaries of the activities of the Cameroons Development Corporation under the Ordinance which has been mentioned so as to enable it to extend its diverse activities northward?

Brigadier GIBBONS (Special representative): I think there is a provision already in the Ordinance upon which the operations of the Corporation are based for the acquisition, on its behalf, of further lands by the Governor-General, but I doubt whether, in practice, this is a very likely thing to happen at the present time because the Corporation is still exploiting effectively only quite a small portion of the very vast estates which are under its control, and my impression, and I think the impression of the Chairman of the Corporation, is that it has quite enough to do already and that it would scarcely be feasible to aim at this moment at expanding that particular organization to undertake further development works beyond its present geographical limits. It is for that reason that the Southern Cameroons Government is placing a great deal of confidence in the activities of the new Production Development Board which is about to come into action. We think that it will probably be more effective to entrust development

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projects in parts of the country which are distant from the present headquarters of the Cameroons Development Corporation to a new organization with new staff, and thus bring more organizing ability into the country.

Mr. APAGON (Guatemala) (interpretation from Spanish): If I understand clearly, the Corporation existing in the Territory is not the same as what we understand a corporation to be in Latin America, but I am glad to learn that this new body is very much like the kind of body that has just been recommended by the International Bank. I should like to know whether the institution which was recommended by the International Bank is indeed the institution to which the special representative has just referred.

Brigadier GIBBONS (Special representative): I think so. The International Bank Mission knew, of course, from its study of Nigeria as a whole that the general pattern in all the regions of Nigeria was that there existed a Production Development Board which looked after major development projects, and also a Loans Board which disposed of rather smaller funds which it used as revolving loan funds for smaller enterprises, the funds of both of these kinds of board being derived from the operations of the Marketing Boards which, at the time when the International Bank Mission made its survey, were commodity boards dealing with one crop each for the whole of Nigeria.

The next development, which was more or less simultaneous with the examination of the situation by the International Bank Mission, was that, in step with the new constitutional developments of 1954, the Marketing Boards were regionalized and one had, in place of the nation-wide commodity boards, one Commodity Marketing Board for each region and one in the Southern Cameroons, similarly, which is the source for the financing of the Production Development Boards and the Loan Boards which had previously existed. The recommendation of the Mission was that it would be more economical and more practical to amalgamate in the case of each region the Loans Board and the Production Development Board, and we are doing that in the Southern Cameroons in the same way that it has, I think, already been done in other regions of Nigeria.

U THAN HLA (Burma): While we are on the subject of the Southern Cameroons Production Development Board I should like to put two questions, one on a matter of detail and the other having to do with the administrative set-up. The matter of detail concerns a statement which appeared, I believe, in the report of the Visiting Mission to the effect that the Southern Cameroons Production Development Board would take over the assets of the Eastern Regional Board. What I should like to know is what, in the physical sense of plantations or estates, those assets comprise, and whether there is a likelihood of other plantations and estates being taken over by the Board.

Brigadier GIBBONS (Special representative): The Eastern Regional Production Development Board's assets which are being taken over by the Southern Cameroons Production Development Board consist of those sums of money received by the Eastern Regional Production Development Board throughout the period when the Southern Cameroons formed part of the eastern region which are emphatically attributable to the quantity of produce handled by the Marketing Board which was actually derived from the Southern Cameroons. This sum will be diminished by the calculated value of the single enterprise of the Eastern Regional Development Board which was established and worked up in the Southern Cameroons.

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Special representative)

The Southern Cameroons Production Development Board will take over physically this enterprise, together with its staff and the various indents for supplies, and so on, which are at present going through the machine, and it will then receive the cash balance due to it, less the value which the Eastern Region Production Development Board has already sunk in this enterprise. The enterprise in question is the coffee plantation at Santa in the Bamenda neighbourhood.

U THAN HLA (Burma): My second question is about the administrative set-up. I should be grateful to hear from the special representative something about the administrative set-up of the Board, the nature of its relationship with the Southern Cameroons Government, its powers, and the controls, if any, which the Southern Cameroons Government exercises over its activities.

Brigadier GIBBONS (Special representative): The Board will be under the Chairmanship of the Financial and Development Secretary of the Southern Cameroons Government, and there will also be on it a representative of the Cameroons Development Corporation -- because we felt that that would bring in very useful technical knowledge on the subject of plantation development -- the chief Agricultural Officer of the Administration, and a number -- I cannot at the moment say exactly how many -- of unofficial representatives who will provide an unofficial majority on the Board. The Board will be quite free to carry out developments within its own discretion, except that I believe that it will require the approval of the Commissioner of the Cameroons merely in order to see that the undertakings which it is going into are within its present financial competence. My recollection of the law is that that is the only consideration which the Commissioner of the Cameroons will apply in giving or withholding his approval for the undertakings of the Board.

Apart from this, there will be no control of this Board by the Southern Cameroons Government except, of course, that we may from time to time make grants of money to it, and if we do that, we shall certainly ask that we should have some share in the decision about what is done with that money.

Mr. ARAGON (Guatemala) (interpretation from Spanish): I feel that the institutions which have been set up, as described by the special representative, will be of great significance in the economic future of the Territory.

I shall now put my second question. I should like to have some details, if possible, concerning the manner in which the cultivation of coffee is going to be undertaken, as recommended by the International Bank, especially with regard to the relative importance of coffee in the export trade of the Cameroons.

Brigadier GIBBONS (Special representative): Our principal undertaking with regard to coffee is the Santa Coffee Estate which will be developed by the Southern Cameroons Production Development Board. One of the functions of this Estate, however, will be to provide encouragement, advice, instruction and facilities for a growing number of independent individual and co-operative coffee producers who are in the neighbourhood of that plantation, which is one peculiarly suitable for the production of good quality Arabica coffee. There has been in the last year or two a very remarkable increase in the number of individual coffee planters in that neighbourhood, and also in the production which they are getting from their farms. I feel certain that details of this increase appear in our annual report and in the report of the Visiting Mission. We think that the example and assistance which will be given to these groups of producers by the Santa Coffee Estate will greatly accelerate the pace of advance, and it appears to us that the coffee crop will become as valuable a part of the economy of the Southern Cameroons as the representative of the United States foretold that it would be when he went and looked at the land there in 1949.

Mr. ARAGON (Guatemala) (interpretation from Spanish): In conclusion, I should like to refer to a matter of considerable interest to us. On page 41 of the annual report reference is made to the Double Taxation Convention which was adopted in order to avoid double taxation. It seems to me that this is of great importance since it might encourage a flow of foreign capital to the Territory, thus contributing to its development. I should like to have a few details about this point. How will it be handled? Or could the special representative tell me what document might provide me with such details?

Brigadier GIBBONS (Special representative): The position is that all companies established in Nigeria and the Cameroons under British administration are liable to pay a company's tax at the rate of nine shillings in the pound on their profits. This is a high tax, but not so high, I believe, as the taxes which they would be liable to pay on similar profits in the United Kingdom.

The way the Double Taxation Convention works is this. If a firm is registered in the United Kingdom and is, therefore, liable to pay United Kingdom taxes upon its profits, it will, in the first place, pay the nine shillings tax to the Nigerian authorities, and the United Kingdom authorities will then be content to receive only the difference between the amount of these taxes and the amount which the United Kingdom Inland Revenue Department would otherwise require.

Mr. ARAGON (Guatemala)(interpretation from Spanish): I should like one further clarification with regard to this matter. Am I to understand that double taxation exists between Nigeria and the Cameroons under United Kingdom administration, or is it between these two Territories and the United Kingdom?

Brigadier GIBBONS (Special representative): There is no question of double taxation as between Nigeria and the Cameroons. It is only a question of the possibility of double taxation as between Nigeria and the Cameroons as a single fiscal unit and the United Kingdom as another unit. What happens is that the companies taxes throughout Nigeria in all its three regions and in the quasi-region of the Southern Cameroons is paid to the Federal Government, and the amount of the companies tax derived from enterprises in the Southern Cameroons then flows back into the revenues of the Southern Cameroons Government through the operations of the statutory revenue allocation from the Federal authorities to the Southern Cameroons. This is designed to ensure that all revenues derived from the Southern Cameroons go back to that Territory for the service of the Southern Cameroons Government.

Mr. BARGUES (France)(interpretation from French): Reference is made in the annual report of the Administering Authority to mining legislation, which seems to be very detailed and complete. This legislation determines the conditions under which prospecting for minerals are carried out, and it even deals with prospecting for radio-active minerals. However, the report indicates that at the present time there is no mineral wealth in the Cameroons. Could the special representative give us any supplementary details about prospecting for minerals and tell us whether there are any real hopes that minerals will be found. I ask this question because in the neighbouring territories of Nigeria and the Cameroons under French Administration prospecting has led to very encouraging results over the past few years. I refer to the discovery of niobeum and also the discovery of a deposit of natural gas near Douala. Is the geological structure of the Territory such that we can hope that similar results will be obtained in the British Cameroons under British administration?

Brigadier GIBBONS (Special representative): There has, I think, been no further geological exploration of the Cameroons under British administration, with a view to finding workable mineral deposits, since the last time I appeared before this Council. At that time, all I could say was that the explorations had been made, though I think they were not of an extremely detailed nature, and that the conclusion arrived at by the Department of Geology was that there were no prospects in the Cameroons under British administration of finding economically exploitable mineral deposits. I believe, however, that since that time there has been some surveying carried out along the seaboard by a company interested in looking for oil. This company was possibly encouraged by the very fine fireworks display which I remember seeing from the window of my sitting-room, a display caused by the natural gas found in Douala on the other side of the bay.

Mr. DARGUES (France) (interpretation from French): Another problem mentioned in the report, and also in the Visiting Mission's report, is the problem of improving the diet of the indigenous inhabitants. The food of the indigenous inhabitants is often deficient in proteins, and the report of the Administering Authority indicates that the fishing industry cannot satisfy the needs of the population. The Visiting Mission, for its part, expressed the hope that the fishing industry would be developed. This problem has been raised during the examination of the conditions in other Territories. Does the Administering Authority intend to develop fish farming? Do they envisage importing fish from other territories in Africa where work has been done along these lines?

Brigadier GIBBONS (Special representative): In the Southern Cameroons Government we have given very careful consideration to the question of developing fish farming. Indeed, a rather expensive project upon this line was contained in the proposals we originally prepared when asking the United Kingdom Government to make allocations under the development plan of 1956-1961. I am afraid that eventually we found that, in order to find enough money for other forms of development which we felt to be even more urgent, we had to whittle

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down our original proposal for an allocation for developing fish farms to sufficient money only to develop a pioneer scheme in order to get experience with regard to what could be done in the future. In the northern part of the Trust Territory there is a prospect of developing fish farming in connexion with the very large irrigation project which is being carried out on the edge of Lake Chad in the Wulgo area, and for this purpose a fisheries officer has recently been posted to Maiduguri with instructions to draw up a scheme for developing fisheries in connexion with the irrigation project.

Mr. BARGUES (France)(interpretation from French): I am very grateful to the special representative for the very interesting details he has given us on this very important question, and this leads me to my next question, which concerns horned cattle. There are apparently 400,000 head of cattle in the area, and there is an export movement towards Nigeria. Are such exports controlled or fostered by the Administering Authority? Does the Administering Authority contemplate encouraging a systematic cattle export programme from the Cameroons towards the larger consuming centres such as Lagos?

Brigadier GIBBONS (Special representative): The export trade in cattle from the Trust Territory into the rest of Nigeria is free and not controlled by the Southern Cameroons Government or by that of the Northern region. Cattle entering the Eastern region are subject to the payment of a small tax imposed by the Government of the Eastern region. The purpose of that tax is to improve the cattle routes and the accomodation for cattle en route.

The policy of the Southern Cameroons Government is set out in the policy paper on veterinary affairs, which the Visiting Mission has been good enough to reproduce as one of the addenda to its most valuable report. The policy is not to take any measures directly to encourage the export of beef from the Territory to other markets, because we consider that the main objective of the veterinary services in the Trust Territory should be to increase the protein part of the diet of the indigenous population, a matter to which reference has already been made by one representative on this Council.

Mr. BARGUES (France) (interpretation from French): I suppose that if there is much livestock in the Northern Cameroons, there may be a considerable shortage in protein in the diet in the Southern Cameroons. Is there what one might call a commercial stream of cattle export from Northern to Southern Cameroons? Does the Southern Cameroons get its meat from the Northern Cameroons?

Brigadier GIBBONS (Special representative): Yes, that is the position. The main trade in cattle from the grasslands, which form the northern part of the Southern Cameroons and the southern part of the Northern Cameroons, is a steady stream of cattle down to the plantation areas near the coast in the south of the Southern Cameroons. I think about ten times as many cattle come down that route as go across westwards into Eastern Nigeria. It is something like 10,000 head a year, which comes down to the Victoria division.

Mr. BARGUES (France) (interpretation from French): I have just one more question. It is prompted by a recommendation offered by the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, which felt that it would be possible to increase the hydro-electric power-producing capacity in the Cameroons under British administration, in the Southern Cameroons at least, to feed the industrial expansion of the Cameroons under French administration. Hence the great interest in the matter for me, since I am the representative of the Administering Authority for the French Cameroons. As is well known, despite the vast power resources of the Buea plant and its possible expansion, the increase of the aluminium industry, the increase in the population of Duala, and the increase of the standard of living of the population there, all of that involves vast consumption increases for electric power, and if it were possible to get from British administered Cameroons, a surplus of power required to feed a large industry, the problem would be satisfactorily solved.

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One plan which is of interest to us here in the Trusteeship Council, as mentioned above, would be particularly noteworthy since it would constitute in itself a signal example of international co-operation.

Brigadier GIBBONS (Special representative): I feel certain myself that the International Bank Mission is perfectly justified in reporting that there was a very considerable potential in the way of hydro-electric power in the southern part of the Cameroons under British administration, and that there is a great deal of fast moving water in that Territory. I am sure that it only needs a thorough survey of the possibilities to find places where you could establish extremely productive plants. I do not, however, think that I can hold out prospects of a very rapid development in this direction, because I understand that in developing hydro-electric projects, it is of the very greatest importance to have a full data upon the flow of water, and the rise and fall of rivers, and so forth, over a considerable number of years.

I am told indeed that in the United Kingdom nobody would look at a project of that nature anywhere where they did not have good data on such matters running back for at least twenty years. Certainly in the conditions of West Africa it is advisable to take a chance and act on very much scantier information than that. But our experience so far in the Southern Cameroons has been that we have established one important hydro-electric scheme at Njoke, between Duala and Kumba, and we find that as a result of this planning having been cited on data which only went back a year or two instead of going back for twenty years, there are defects in the installation which might perhaps have been avoided if we had spent longer time in reconnaissance. We are therefore about to carry out an aerial survey of what we regard as the most likely stream for this purpose, known as the Ombe River. But we are not going to be in too great a hurry in working out the project which we may then have in mind.

Mr. BARGUES (France) (interpretation from French): I entirely share the view of the special representative. I think that hydro-electric resources can be exploited only after careful study, especially in Africa where variations in water flow are much more extreme than in temperate climate countries. But subject to this reservation, and in the event these resources are recognized

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by the technicians as being incapable of exploitation; would it be advantageous to transport the resulting power to Duala for the utilization in the industries there.

Brigadier GIBBONS (Special representative): I imagine that a decision on this matter would depend entirely on the circumstances; I mean as to whether there was in fact power available, and surplus, for the requirements of the Territory under British administration. If there were surplus power available, I feel certain that the British authorities would be only too glad to make it available to the authorities in the Cameroons under French administration, if only as a quid pro quo for the very many extremely helpful facilities that the French authorities have given to us in our economic development, such as their extremely co-operative work in transporting our bananas down the railway on the French side of the frontier, for shipment, which enables the Cameroons Development Corporation on the British side to export a very valuable banana crop which could otherwise not be moved at certain times of the year.

Mr. BARGUES (France) (interpretation from French): I have no other questions and I am very grateful to the special representative for the very interesting replies he has given to me.

U THAN HLA (Burma): My first question is connected with the recommendation of the International Bank Mission, which relates to the examination of the possibility of increasing the export duty on bananas. One of the reasons for the Executive Council of the Southern Cameroons Government not recommending an increase in export duty on bananas, as mentioned in paragraph 132 (b) of the Visiting Mission's report (T/1226), is the increase in labour costs. I should be grateful to the special representative if he could please throw some light on the labour costs and the principle causes for the rise. Here I should like to say that I am putting this question only for the purpose of getting information that would enable me to understand the matter fully, and not for any other purpose.

Brigadier GIBBONS (Special representative): During the period which the Council now has under review, there have been very important increases in the scale of wages paid by the Corporation, in fact to such an extent that the operations of the Corporation are very considerably affected by this factor. I will try to find the most convenient place in which these increases will be set out. I am afraid I cannot put my hand on the table at the moment, but I do know that in one of the documents which are before us there is certainly a table indicating the recent increases in the wages of Corporation labour. With your permission, I will give this information to the representative of Burma when the Council next meets.

U THAN HLA (Burma): I thank the special representative for his courtesy. What he proposes is perfectly agreeable to me.

My second question is also connected with the recommendation of the IBRD Mission regarding the possibility of the introduction of an export duty on coffee. It is said in paragraph 132 (b) of the Visiting Mission's report that: "The recommendation in regard to coffee is still under examination." What I should like to know is whether the Executive Council of the Southern Cameroons has reached a decision on the matter. If it has, what is it? If it has not reached a decision, how does the matter stand now?

Brigadier GIBBONS (Special representative): I think that the members of the Council will appreciate that it would be rather improper to give advance information as to probabilities over taxation matters anywhere except in the Legislature of the country since all commercial interests involved would regard this as a very serious breach of confidence on the part of the Government. I can only say that the 1955-56 budget is being introduced into the Southern Cameroons House of Assembly on 15 March and that it will then be known whether or not any decision has been taken on the question of imposing an export tax on coffee.

U THAN HLA (Burma): My next question relates to the establishment of an institute of agriculture at Bambui. My delegation is happy to note that agricultural courses will commence sometime in 1957. We would be interested to know what kind of courses, post-primary or post-secondary are planned for the institute.

Brigadier GIBBONS (Special representative): We are planning three kinds of courses at the institute which, as the representative of Burma says, will be coming into action, we hope, in 1957. There will be one kind of instruction for indigenous farmers who are going back to their own holdings and another type of instruction for people who are aiming at employment on the estates of the Cameroons Development Corporation or other plantation projects. There will also be, I think, largely owing to the enthusiasm in this matter of Dr. Endeley, instruction in the working of co-operative societies, which will be given to all students attending the Institute.

U THAN HLA (Burma): Page 49, paragraph 160, of the Visiting Mission's report states:

"It appeared to the Mission that the Administering Authority is still encountering much difficulty in persuading the peasant farmer to abandon his traditional techniques in favour of more up-to-date methods and tools, even if these are no more modern than the use of compost and manures and ox-drawn plough."

Could the special representative tell me approximately what proportion of the peasant farmers still use the old traditional techniques and if their number is quite large? What measures does the Administering Authority have in mind to get over this difficulty?

Brigadier GIBBONS (Special representative): I am afraid that this is a question to which I give an unsatisfactory answer every year. It is really exceedingly difficult to give a satisfactory answer to this question because you can scarcely maintain statistics of the exact degree of advance that you have achieved in spreading improved agricultural methods among a people such as this. All that one can fairly say is that wherever demonstration activities have been going on for some years, there does appear to be a gradual dissemination among the population in that area of new techniques, and one can be conscious of a general gradual advance. But I do not think that the position is one which is susceptible of expression in terms of percentages. The ox-drawn plough, which is specifically mentioned in this paragraph, is certainly coming more into use in the Northern parts of the Trust Territory, although there seems to be very little interest in it in the Baramba area of the South where we have also been trying to demonstrate its value.

U THAN FLA (Burma): My next question is about rubber production. The production figures are given in table 39 on page 213 of the report of the Administering Authority. From that table I find that in 1950 the production in long tons was 1,240. This figure increased in 1951 and 1952 for a quite understandable reason: the spiralling up of the price of rubber. It also increased in 1953.

Of course, the price of rubber, if I remember correctly, fell about the middle of 1952. The figure for 1954 is still quite steady, 1,603 long tons. It is about the same as the figures for 1952 and 1951. But in view of the fact that the price of rubber fell very rapidly from the middle of 1952, I should like to know how the rubber planters are faring and how you are meeting the cost of production.

Brigadier GIBBONS (Special representative): All the rubber produced in the Southern Cameroons under British administration is produced under plantation conditions. The greater part of it is produced, I believe, by the Cameroons Development Corporation, but considerable quantities are also produced by Messrs. Pamol, Ltd., in the neighbourhood of Mbonge. Both these concerns have been very greatly occupied during the last few years and continue to be occupied in replacing old rubber trees, which are not bearing at their maximum efficiency, with new rubber trees, which they are planting very fast. As they plant them, they are cutting out the old trees which they regard as being no longer economic. It is for this reason that the production level of Southern Cameroons rubber remains fairly constant. In a few years, there will come a time, when the new trees will come into production, when there will be, I believe, a very sharp increase in Southern Cameroons production.

Grown under plantation conditions as it is today, I am told that it is a thoroughly economic proposition, even at the low prices for rubber which were ruling before the temporary boom last year. It seems that rubber produced in Southern Cameroons conditions will always be able to pay its way even when the market is at the bottom.

U THIAN HLA (Burma): That answers my question very fully. The special representative spoke about old rubber trees which are being replaced by new trees. By new trees, I suppose he meant trees which produce more latex. In Malaya, I believe that a new tree produces twice the amount of latex produced by an old tree. Is it something like that?

Brigadier GIBBONS (Special representative): I believe that we may expect results of the order which is hopefully suggested by the representative of Burma. I think the corporation reports in its annual report that it is still clearing and planting between 750 and 1,000 acres with new rubber each year. The trees it is planting are mostly being planted by budding from stock flown across from Malaya.

Mr. RAGHU RAJIAIAH (India): A number of questions were already asked about the Development Corporation, and the special representative took a lot of pains to explain many of the points. But there are one or two doubts which I still have. I would be obliged to the special representative if he could clear them up.

What exactly is the constitution of the corporation? It sounds to me like a purely governmental body. I do not know whether I am correct. Who runs the corporation? Who makes the appointments? Perhaps the special representative would tell me about that.

Brigadier GIBBONS (Special representative): The constitution of the corporation was laid down by the Cameroons Development Corporation Ordinance of 1946, which was amended in some important particulars by the Southern Cameroons Government last year. It consists of a chairman and members appointed by the Governor-General. I think that the law lays down that there should be a minimum of seven or eight members and a maximum of eleven. In any case, it is something of that order.

According to the law, the appointments made by the Governor-General are made in his discretion. However, the practice has always been for him first to consult the Commissioner of the Cameroons, who reports on what appointments would be considered satisfactory in the Territory. Since the establishment of

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the new Constitution in October 1954, the appointments have always been made after consultation between the Commissioner of the Cameroons and the Leader of Government Business in the Southern Cameroons House.

The present members consist of a chairman who, for many years, has been the principal personality in the operation of the marketing boards in Nigeria; the officer of the Federal Government, who is Secretary to the National Economic Council established as a result of the proposals of the International Bank Mission; and the last official member is now, as required by the amendments to the law recently passed by the Southern Cameroons Government, the Financial and Development Secretary of the Southern Cameroons Government. Then there are three overseas members who are prominent merchants with experience in commerce and plantation work in the West Indies, the Far East and elsewhere; and there are four Cameroons members, of whom two are members of the House of Assembly, one is a traditional ruler from the Grasslands and one is a prominent politician of the leading opposition party who has also had considerable experience as a trade union leader among the labour force of the corporation.

Mr. RAGHU RAMAIAH (India): I am much obliged for the detailed answer. I find that banana production is by far the largest as regards the Corporation. What is the proportion of the banana production of this Corporation compared with the total banana export? I notice that the bananas produced by this Corporation are actually exported by arrangement with another commercial firm. Is it not possible for the Corporation itself to undertake the work of exporting its bananas?

Brigadier GIBBONS (Special representative): With regard to the matter of the actual marketing of the Southern Cameroons banana crop, the Corporation is in an extremely fortunate position in being able to utilize the services of a commercial concern, Elders and Fyffes Limited, which is extremely experienced in the banana business and has very wide and efficient connexions in the United Kingdom, the principal market, and it also has an adequate fleet of banana-carrying ships to move the crop. I foresee no possibility whatever of the Cameroons Development Corporation seeking to go into the shipping business instead of continuing to use the services of this very experienced and useful concern.

Speaking from memory, I believe that the proportion of the banana crop produced by the Cameroons Development Corporation is between 60 per cent and 70 per cent of the total. The remainder is nearly all produced by Elders and Fyffes Limited which, besides running this fleet of banana-carrying vessels, also operates one of the plantations of the Cameroons Development Corporation, under licence issued to it by the Corporation. There has also been in the last few years a growing peasant production of bananas which has now reached the value of something like £40,000 or £50,000 a year, but it seems likely that it will increase very steeply in the future. This means that at present it is something like 3 per cent of the total banana exports of the Territory, but it will certainly rise to a much higher figure than that in the next few years.

The meeting rose at 5.45 p.m.