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VERBATIM RECORD OF THE SEVEN HUNDRED AND SIXTY-FIFTH MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Tuesday, 2 April 1957, at 2 p.m.

President:

Mr. ASHA

(Syria)

1. Examination of the annual report on the administration of the Trust Territory of the Cameroons under French administration for 1955 [3c] (continued)
2. Hearings of petitioners from the Trust Territory of the Cameroons under French administration [14] (continued)

Note: The Official Record of this meeting, i.e., the summary record, will appear in provisional mimeographed form under the symbol T/SR.765 and will be subject to representatives' corrections. It will appear in final form in a printed volume.

EXAMINATION OF THE ANNUAL REPORT ON THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE TRUST TERRITORY OF THE CAMEROONS UNDER FRENCH ADMINISTRATION FOR 1955 (T/1284, 1304, 1307; T/L.736 and Add.1, L.742) [Agenda item 3c] (continued)

HEARINGS OF PETITIONERS FROM THE TRUST TERRITORY OF THE CAMEROONS UNDER FRENCH ADMINISTRATION (General Assembly resolution 1067 (XI)) (A/RES/500) [Agenda item 14] (continued)

At the invitation of the President, Mr. Xavier Deniau, special representative for the Trust Territory of the Cameroons under French administration, took a place at the Trusteeship Council table.

Economic, social and educational advancement (continued)

Mr. JAIPAL (India): I should like to put a few questions on my favourite hunting ground, Sanaga-Maritime. We know that in this region two of the sub-divisions, the Eseka and Edea subdivisions, were somewhat disturbed a few months ago. They seemed to be the main danger to the political stability of the Territory as a whole. I am interested in finding out from the special representative some information about the economy of this region, the occupations of the people living there, whether any plantations there are owned by foreign concessionaires and whether the plantation labour participated in the recent disturbances, the general standards of living of the people living there. What I am trying to find out is whether economic discontent in this region is at the root of the political disturbances there.

Mr. DENIAU (Special representative) (interpretation from French): I could reply to the representative of India in outline. Unfortunately, I cannot give him specific figures as regards economic activity in the Sanaga-Maritime region. The statistics available to me indeed apply to the entire Territory, and I do not have regional statistics.

I wish to correct an imprecise statement of the representative of India. The Sanaga-Maritime region has three sub-divisions: Edea, Eseka and Babimbi. The disturbances which took place in Sanaga-Maritime in December affected the

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sub-division of Eseka as a whole, half of the sub-division of Babimbi, but they did not touch, or practically did not touch, the sub-division of Edea, or if they did it was in a very superficial way.

I should like to clarify one point. These disturbances did not affect the workers in the plantations or the workers in the business enterprises, especially those of Alucam and Enelcam of whom we have spoken on several occasions. It did not affect the different construction enterprises which are working on hydroelectric dams. They also did not involve the workers on the rubber plantation of Dizamgué, situated in the sub-division of Edea, which is the most important in the Cameroons and which plays in a small sort of way in the Cameroonian work world the pilot role that la Régie Renault plays in France.

The workers on the Dizamgué plantation did not take part in the disturbances.

These are the villages which were actually affected by these disturbances in one way or another either because they participated in the disturbances themselves or because they were the victims of the disturbances. In general it was the villages situated in the region of the great forests, very dense forests, and I believe I have already spoken of this to the Council.

The Sanaga-Maritime region is the region where the effort to industrialize is most advanced in the Territory. Some important plantations are there. It was not in this industrial zone nor in the plantation zone where these particular difficulties were experienced. On the contrary, these disturbances took place in the jungle area, and I believe that these disturbances had a political basis and not an economic one.

The area where the disturbances took place is the birthplace of the UPC leader Ruben Um Nyobé. The great majority of those who provoked the troubles are people who recognize Ruben Um Nyobé as their leader. He has a title like the Duce in Italy had. In this region the UPC did not take the aspect of a national party, a Cameroonian party, but rather as a tribal or local party. For a number of the Bama of that region the UPC was almost a religion. This explains in part the special attitude of hostility in this region towards all Christian Missions either Catholic or Protestant. This explains the attacks systematically committed on Catholics and Protestants at the time of the disturbances.

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I apologize for coming back to this political subject while the Council is considering economic questions. But the question of the representative of India could not be answered only in purely economic terms, and before going to economic matters I felt it was necessary to give these clarifications.

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The area affected by this disturbances is a forest area; it is not an area of plantations or an industrial area. It is an area where cocoa is grown but not in the same systematic way as is done in the central area, in the Bulu country, for instance. Cocoa is grown, but without it being such an important element of economy as it is in other parts of the Territory.

On the other hand, the villages in general cultivate various crops, palm oil and so forth; hence this is an area where tribal life is still preserved to a large extent and generally speaking this is true. Of course there are villages which in one way or another were affected by the disturbances which do not have these economic characteristics; I am speaking in a general way. Economic life had a tribal character in these areas and it was not generally affected by modern developments of trade and distribution. Regions where there were plantations and industries were not affected by the disturbances. It did happen of course that some of the people in these areas who came from villages did participate in the disturbances.

Mr. JAIPAL (India): The reply provided by the special representative is most informative. I have been trying to find out whether these two subdivisions of Babimbi and Eseka have been more susceptible to troubles than other areas. It is very interesting that there were no disturbances in the industrial and plantation areas and that the disturbances were more or less confined to people living in the forests.

It is a curious thing that people living in the forests should be so politically conscious and I should be grateful if the special representative would tell us the nature of the occupations of these people who live in the forest areas and how their standard of living compares with those of people living elsewhere. Also, could he tell us whether any of the political leaders come from this particular area, which might explain the loyalty which the jungle people seem to have to certain causes.

Mr. DENIAU (Special representative)(interpretation from French): If I were to give a definition, I do not think it would be that the people in the jungle are necessarily very politically aware. It is not their political development which is striking; rather it is their primitive situation which is most remarkable.

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A sort of tribal fanaticism prevails and the assassinations which were committed there have this characteristic of tribal fanaticism. They wanted to attack and punish people whom they thought did not display this tribal loyalty which they identified with loyalty to the UPC; because Ruben Um Nyobe comes from that region where the troubles arose and therefore everyone who did not share the opinions of the UPC and of Ruben Um Nyobe were held to be great enemies of these people because of not being loyal to this movement of the Bassa tribe. They have identified themselves with the UPC as being the party of Ruben Um Nyobe and they feel that the Bassa people or tribe will become the leaders of the Territory thanks to Ruben Um Nyobe and his political ideas as exemplified by the UPC.

These jungle people, as has been said, live in a very traditional, primitive fashion -- a subsistence existence -- living from the palm trees and so forth. They drink a lot of palm wine. But, as I have said, this is jungle country, difficult of access, where the various types of industrial activity have not yet penetrated because the topography does not lend itself to any industry; thus they live a traditional, tribal sort of life. This of course concerns this particular region and does not go very far beyond it.

Mr. JAIPAL (India): I will go on to my next question. We see from the report that the Administering Authority has continued its efforts to diversify agriculture. We also see from the report that the main crops of this Territory are cocoa, coffee, bananas, cotton, palm kernels, rubber, tobacco, millet, maize and groundnuts. It seems to me that this is sufficiently diversified as it is and I am interested to know what pattern of diversification, what new crops, the Administering Authority is thinking of introducing in this Territory; or is it the intention to increase production of certain crops whose production at the moment is rather low?

Mr. DENIAU (Special representative)(interpretation from French): As was pointed out by the representative of India, diversification has been aimed at for the past few years. The exclusive cultivation of cocoa, or rather an economy dominated by cocoa, was characteristic of the economic situation in the Cameroons

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a few years ago, but this has been replaced by a more diversified economy in which cocoa is still very important but now the cultivation of the banana has been developed and coffee, rice, cotton and groundnuts are grown. All this has contributed to the diversification of crops. The Administering Authority is making an effort to develop these different crops instead of introducing new crops. As regards tea, I must say that in the west of the Territory some beginning of the cultivation of tea can now be noted and we expect that this might develop.

Mr. JAIPAL (India): We see from the report that the local customs are still proving to be an obstacle to the classification of forests. I believe the representative of New Zealand asked a few questions about this particular matter. I am interested to know the nature of the local objections to the classification of forests.

Mr. DENIAU (Special representative) (interpretation from French): The representative of India has referred here to one of the constant problems in the Cameroons. The Trusteeship Council has considered this matter often and has made several recommendations, which the Administering Authority has taken into consideration. But I regret to say that in this field we have not made much progress, unfortunately, because of the hostility of the population with regard to the classification of forests. This hostility has been manifested in the Assembly by the elected representatives by an attitude of inertia with regard to the classification of new forest perimeters. The population do not want forest classification in the private domain for they feel that if this did happen the Service of Water and Forests could intervene and it would not then be possible for them to clear the land to plant their crops or to cut down certain types of trees. The populations consider that the presence of an administration to inspect the way in which the forests are protected prevents them from conducting themselves as they wish in the forestry zone.

This hostility does not apply when it is a question of permitting the exploitation of forests or permitting construction in this regard. It applies particularly to the classification of forests themselves, for it is this classification which gives to the classified zone a true protection which prevents the populations from carrying on a certain number of activities in the perimeter.

Mr. JAIPAL (India): Yesterday, the representative of New Zealand posed a few questions about the decree of 20 May 1955 regarding registration of land ownership individually by Africans. I believe the special representative replied that this particular decree had not yet been applied in the Territory because the Territorial Assembly had not wished that to be done straightaway.

Before the issuance of this decree of 20 May 1955, there must have been an alternative procedure under which Africans could secure some form of title to their land. What I should like to know is whether this new decree introduces any new methods for registration of land.

Mr. DENIAU (Special representative)(interpretation from French): This new decree and the measures of implementation in connexion with it introduced a new system as regards the registration of land in the Territory. In reply to the representative of New Zealand I had occasion to mention that this decree was not promulgated by the High Commissioner in the Territory for two reasons. One was that the measures of implementation which had to go before the Territorial Assembly would have encountered some difficulties in the procedure, for the Assembly would not have agreed to some points, especially with regard to the principles of the decree. The second was that the draft reform which would have referred the entire legislation to the Assembly did not become a reality because the draft statute for the Cameroons, which has been discussed in this Council and which would give to the Assembly all the powers in this matter, was still pending. Therefore the decree of 20 May 1955 has had no practical effect. It has not been implemented and it has not really been the subject of a thorough discussion before the Assembly. No text was referred to the Assembly.

Mr. JAIPAL (India): I presume, then, that the old procedure is still being applied under which Africans may obtain individual titles to land. I should like to know to what extent Africans who have individual titles to land are using that land as security for loans.

Mr. DENIAU (Special representative)(interpretation from French): In general the Africans who have their land registered -- which is the easiest way to get an individual title to land for the purpose of a loan -- are people who cultivate their land individually and not collectively and who have well-paying crops. They get a loan to build a house, perhaps. Often Africans who have their land registered request a loan. That is to say, the registration and the application for a loan are generally simultaneous.

Mr. JAIPAL (India): While on the subject of land, could the special representative tell me whether Africans engage in the buying and selling of land and also whether they are free to sell land to any other person, including a European.

Mr. DENIAU (Special representative)(interpretation from French): As regards these transactions between indigenous and non-indigenous persons, there is a special regulation which is based on the decrees of 1932 and 1938. This regulation makes it possible for the Commissioner to check to what extent such transactions took place. There was also a special article in the Trusteeship Agreement -- I do not have the Agreement before me -- which confirmed the existing situation which had been introduced by the Administering Authority before the Trusteeship Agreement was adopted. This article provided that no sale of land by indigenous persons to non-indigenous persons could take place without special authorization from the public authority. This policy has been followed, and authorizations to sell land have been granted by the Commissioner after a recommendation has been secured from the Administrative Council. That Council contains European as well as Cameroonian members.

I might mention that article 18 of the draft statute, which is now being studied, provides that in the future all the authorizations for sales of land by Cameroonians to Europeans will be granted by the Prime Minister, who will consult his cabinet.

(The special representative read article 18 of the draft statute.)

Mr. DENIAU (Special representative)(interpretation from French): The Trusteeship Agreement provided that an authorization by the public authority was required. But there was no specific indication which said that this approval could be given only by the Administering Authority. It simply spoke of the public authority and did not speak of the Administering Authority. Other articles of the Trusteeship Agreement speak specifically of the Administering Authority. Therefore it was felt that this responsibility could be attached to the Government of the Cameroons.

Mr. JAIPAL (India): The annual report does not give the total amount of land now held by non-indigenous persons. On the other hand, on page 102, we find that the total amount of land held under concession at the end of 1955 was 116,437 hectares as far as rural land was concerned. Could the special representative tell me how much of this land is held by non-Africans?

Mr. DENIAU (Special representative) (interpretation from French): This area of 116,437 hectares is, I think, mainly in the hands of non-Africans. I believe that a simple majority, let us say approximately 60 per cent, of the concessions in question have been given to non-indigenous persons. Every year a certain number of concessions are granted to indigenous or non-indigenous persons. The ratio varies from year to year. For instance, in 1954 the number of provisional concessions granted to indigenous persons was twenty-seven, and to non-indigenous persons twenty-four. In 1955, the year that we are now considering, twenty-eight concessions were granted to indigenous persons and only eight to non-indigenous persons. That is to say, in this field there is no fixed ratio. The present trend is to grant concessions to indigenous persons rather than to non-indigenous persons, for the reason that indigenous persons constitute the majority of Africans. I believe, however, referring to the figures mentioned by the representative of India, the total area held by non-indigenous persons should be larger than the area held by indigenous persons.

Mr. JAIPAL (India): I should like to know from the special representative whether there is any great demand on the part of Europeans for land on which to raise livestock or to farm, and also which areas of the Territory are most sought after.

Mr. DENIAU (Special representative) (interpretation from French): I do not think that at present there are a great number of applications for land from non-indigenous persons. Non-indigenous persons are not requesting a great deal of land. The regions involved are usually in the great urban centres of the Territory, and these are concessions or grants for commercial use for the purpose of setting up stores, industrial enterprises and so forth.

With regard to rural land, this concerns various southern regions of the Territory, though I cannot mention any particular region especially. I think that, in this field, during a certain period, many applications were filed in the region of Foubam; in earlier periods it was the case in the Mungo region, where bananas were grown; and, in regard to lumber, there were applications in the Kribi region. I do not think I can give any precise details on this. I do not

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think there has been any notable trend in any particular corner of the Territory. The applications are rather generally spread over the Territory.

Mr. JAIPAL (India): On page 312 of the annual report there is a table showing the concessions granted during the years 1953, 1954 and 1955. That table divides the concessions into three parts, those granted to African individuals, those granted to non-African individuals and, lastly, concessions granted to corporate bodies. What are these corporate bodies? Are they mainly plantation companies and so on? Could the special representative clarify this, please?

Mr. DENIAU (Special representative) (interpretation from French): These are companies or groups. They may be commercial companies, but very often they are missions, which need large concessions on which to build schools or hospitals or to develop villages for Christians. I think that in the majority of cases these concessions are granted to missions.

Mr. JAIPAL (India): I should be grateful if the special representative could tell us the difference between a provisional concession and a final or definitive concession. I find that both these terms are used. I should like to know whether a final concession carries with it outright ownership of land by the concessionaire. Can he, for instance, sell it or mortgage it?

Mr. DENIAU (Special representative) (interpretation from French): That is indeed the difference between a provisional concession and a definitive concession. The provisional concession is given to the person concerned in exchange, so to speak, for his engagement to fulfil a certain number of conditions. These stipulations concern the manner in which the land is to be developed, and these may vary according to the type of concession and the location. For example, if it is an urban concession, the concessionaire might be required to build one or other type of building, with one or other type of material. If it is a plantation, the conditions might include the building of certain necessary buildings, such as schools, sanitary buildings, dispensaries and so on. He might also be obliged to build a road or maintain an existing road. This type of stipulation is very varied indeed.

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The provisional concession is granted for a certain number of years. At the expiry of that period of time, a commission comes to size up the situation, and, if the conditions have not been fulfilled, the concession is not renewed. Such cases where the concessions are not renewed are not rare. The local authorities conduct a very strict inspection to see that all the conditions have been met.

The definitive concession, as the representative of India might suppose, is a title to land. In the case of a provisional concession, the land cannot be sold and so forth, but a definitive concession means that the land is the outright possession of the owner, and he can dispose of it as he sees fit. There may be a certain period of time during which he cannot sell the land -- I can look this up if the representative of India wishes -- but after that time he can actually sell it.

Mr. ZADOTTI (Italy): My first question deals with public finance -- that is, with the budget of the Territory. I should like to draw the attention of the special representative to a comment made by the Visiting Mission on page 66 of its report, in paragraph 240, in which the Visiting Mission emphasized that one of the characteristics of the budget of the Territory was that the expenditure on personnel represented nearly 50 per cent of the total current expenditure for the year 1956. I should like to ask the special representative whether he could confirm that or could express his views on that point.

Mr. DENIAU (Special representative) (interpretation from French): It is true that more than half of the budget of the Territory is devoted to paying personnel. I wish to stress that this is a Territorial budget, properly speaking, and the sources of financing which contribute to the general life of the Territory are very numerous. They are not limited to the Territorial budget. Therefore, personnel expenditures are very considerable within the framework of the Territorial budget -- but, in relation to all the expenditures in the Territory, this proportion is not very high.

The Council is aware of the considerable expenditures which are derived from investments which come from overseas. There are advances made by the Caisse centrale, there are communal budgets, and there are various sources of financing. Much of the personnel which is paid out of the Territorial budget contributes to activities which are really financed out of a different budget, so that part of the expenditures for personnel do not give an indication of the general amount of expenditures in the Territory. Studies of the budget are made by staff that is paid out of the budget of the Territory.

I must say in reply to the representative of Italy that, strictly speaking, the observation of the Visiting Mission is correct. Many of these expenditures are called for by the laws. They are not due to Territorial circumstances. For instance, this goes for family allowances for officials. The situation is going to change entirely since the Territorial budget and the expenditures connected therewith will be entirely in the hands of the Government and the Assembly of the Cameroons.

Mr. ZADOTTI (Italy): According to my understanding, then, it is correct to assume that the 400 million francs carried on the metropolitan budget for certain categories of personnel is not included in the calculation of this 50 per cent.

Mr. DENIAU (Special representative) (interpretation from French): No, this 50 per cent bears upon the Territorial budget.

Mr. ZADOTTI (Italy): I now go back to what appears to be one of the favourite subjects in respect of economic development in the Territory, namely, the question of the stabilization funds. I have listened very carefully to the replies given by the special representative to questions that have been asked on this matter. I should now like to ask him a few questions which may appear to be of a marginal character but which may serve to enlighten me on certain aspects of the question.

I draw the attention of the special representative to the decree establishing the stabilization fund for cocoa. From this decree, I assume that the sources of revenue of this fund fall generally into two categories, one of which comprises what we would call recurrent or ordinary funds, which are listed in Title II, Article 6, sub-paragraphs (a), (b), (c) and (d) of the decree, appearing on page 414 of the annual report. Is that correct?

Mr. DENIAU (Special representative) (interpretation from French): Article 6 of the decree does indicate a certain number of sources of revenue for this stabilization fund. I think I replied to the representative of the United Kingdom. First of all, we had a maintenance fund, the resources of which came from certain export taxes, and the sources of this fund were paid into the stabilization fund. But these sources were destined to dry up, according to the changes in the regulations. Now we have the stabilization fund, and its sources will then be as stated. The other sources of revenue will be sources left up to the Territorial Assembly to determine -- any new sources, if the Assembly deems necessary. The variable financing of the fund is to come from the tax or duty on the cocoa when prices are high -- a situation that has not yet arisen.

Mr. ZADOTTI (Italy): From the answer given by the special representative, I assume that the sources listed under Article 6 are potential sources for the establishment of this fund but, as a matter of fact, the fund has been established only through the contribution of the French Government, that is, of the mother country.

Mr. DENIAU (Special representative) (interpretation from French): As I have already pointed out briefly, the fund has 138 million francs available, which is quite enough to carry on the campaign, and it is supplied from funds which come out of the French budget. The Cameroons therefore has not contributed to the fund or has contributed very little financially to the development of the cocoa campaign.

Mr. ZADOTTI (Italy): In his opening statement, the special representative said that the cocoa producers had received about 1,000 million francs from metropolitan funds through the stabilization fund (T/PV.760, page 108). I assume that this represented a loan from the metropolitan Government to the fund. In other words, I assume that these were not individual loans to the various farmers. I should like to ask the special representative whether the fund is paying interest on the loan.

Mr. DENIAU (Special representative) (interpretation from French): This is a loan to the fund itself, and not to the Territory. It is really an advance from the Treasury rather than loans, properly speaking.

Mr. ZADOTTI (Italy): I thank the special representative for that reply, from which I see that my assumption was correct.

I turn now to another point. In his opening statement, the special representative referred to a new industry to be created on the basis of the natural gas found in the Territory recently (T/PV.760, page 111). Could the special representative tell us what industry is envisaged in this respect?

Mr. DENIAU (Special representative) (interpretation from French): As I have said, this will be a factory set up to treat the natural gas which has been discovered near Douala. Each day, 150,000 cubic metres of gas will be treated. In principle, there will be an annual production of 2,000 tons of butane, 1,000 tons of propane, and 10,000 tons of gasoline which can be used in automobiles, either in its pure state or after having been mixed with other petrol. This will therefore be a secondary petroleum industry. I also think that I stated that the methane would be used to feed a thermal plant.

Mr. ZADOTTI (Italy): I gather, therefore, that the sentence in the special representative's opening statement to which I referred relates to what

the special representative had said in the previous paragraph of that opening statement. In other words, the "new industry" is the one mentioned by the special representative.

I should now like to put some questions in the social field. On page 24 of the Outline of Conditions prepared by the Secretariat, we find some figures concerning the trade unions in the Territory. I note that, as regards the Union des syndicats confédérés du Caméroun, there was a considerable increase in the number of trade unions in 1955 as compared with 1954. At the same time, I note a decrease in the membership of the Union. Could the special representative give us any explanation for this apparent contradiction?

Mr. DENIAU (Special representative)(interpretation from French): We are faced with a rather peculiar position as regards the trade unions and their membership. Every trade union must present a notification of its establishment. No trade union exists legally until it has presented that notification. On the other hand, notification of the number of members is not obligatory. Under the Labour Code, the Administering Authority does not have the right to check on the membership of the various trade unions. That is why the trade unions themselves present their membership figures, and that is why the Labour Inspection Office regards the figures as only approximate figures and draws the conclusions from them which it deems appropriate. We do not have accurate and precise figures in this respect. A person becomes a member of a trade union by the payment of an annual membership fee. We have no way of knowing if persons who at one time were members of a particular trade union have paid their annual dues for the current year. Thus, the Administering Authority can only estimate the membership of the trade unions, whereas it can give accurate figures concerning the number of trade unions. That is why we can say with certainty that the number of trade unions has increased. On the other hand, we have gained the impression -- particularly from the elections of trade union representatives held in the various enterprises in the Territory -- that the number of members of this or that trade union has decreased. In other words, we noted that the union representatives in the various enterprises were elected by smaller majorities than the previous year. The Labour Office drew the

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conclusion that the number of members of trade unions in certain areas had decreased. That is why the figures given in this respect are only approximate figures, or estimates. The Administering Authority, however, believes that it is justified in stating that there was a decrease in the number of members of the trade unions of the CGT during 1955.

Mr. ZADOTTI (Italy): With reference to the status of women, the Trusteeship Council recommended at its seventeenth session that the Administering Authority should consider the possibility of revising provisions concerning family allowances, with a view to avoiding the abuses which had occurred in the Territory on the part of polygamous officials. Can the special representative give us any further information on this point?

Mr. DENIAU (Special representative)(interpretation from French): The allowances to polygamous officials are made under a law of which there has been considerable discussion in the Council -- that is, the Lamine-Gueye Law, which is named after the Mayor of Dakar, who was a Deputy and was responsible for the adoption of the law. The Lamine-Gueye Law provides that there should be no discrimination as regards the salary and other emoluments of French officials, whatever their origin, with the exception of post allowances. This is a measure adopted by Parliament, not by the local authorities, and the latter have no power to change the measure.

I think that the problem which has been referred to by the representative of Italy will soon be solved. In reply to a question put by the representative of Belgium, I have already indicated that from now on the Cameroonian Government will have the power to fix the salary and other emoluments of all officials in the Cameroonian public service.

Mr. BARGUES (France)(interpretation from French): I wish to add only a few words to what has just been said by the special representative. During a previous session of the Trusteeship Council, I have had occasion to explain my

Government's position on the Lamine-Gueye Law and its application in the Trust Territories. In fact, the aim of this Law is to eliminate any discrimination, based on ethnical or religious differences, in the remuneration of officials. No one could criticize that aim. Some abuses of the law have been cited. During a previous session of the Council, the Visiting Mission, through its Chairman, indicated to the Council its astonishment at the fact that some indigenous officials were receiving, under the heading of family allowances, sums which were completely out of proportion to their rank and their base pay. It is true that there were some abuses of the law. These abuses, however -- at least in my view -- did not justify the condemnation of the whole system, especially since that system was based on a political necessity.

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However, I must say that the position of the local authorities in this respect is much less delicate than that of the Administering Authority. The Government of Togoland has changed the system of family allowances, the system being now under the Government. In Togoland at present the number of children for whom family allowances are paid is limited to six in a family. But the Togoland authorities, of course, can impose upon their fellow nationals certain rules. It is more difficult for the Administering Authority to do so because, as France stipulates the principle of non-discrimination, it is very difficult for the Administering Authority to impose restrictions of this kind. The Lamine-Gueye Law was voted by a large majority in Parliament and, despite certain abuses, pointed out by the Press, there was never any movement in Parliament which would have called for revision of this law. But I believe that the Cameroonian authorities will be much freer in dealing with this question than the Administering Authority and perhaps they will be inspired by the example of the Togoland Republic.

Mr. ZADOTTI (Italy): When I asked this question I was fully aware -- outside of my personal experience -- of how difficult it is for the Administering Authority to cope with this problem, which has its roots in the structure of the indigenous society. I realize, therefore, the difficulty of solving this problem and I fully sympathize with the views expressed by the representative of France.

I have a final question on which I would like to have a reply just for my own information. On page 26 of the working paper prepared by the Secretariat (T/L.736) I find the word assimilés. In mentioning the total strength of the medical personnel reference is made to 200 Europeans and assimilés. Could the special representative tell me what is meant by that word? It appears in paragraph 103 of the document.

Mr. DENIAU (Special representative) (interpretation from French): I shall have to consult the annual report for some explanation of this expression. I do not know whether the reference here is to people who have come from outside the Territory or whether it is an expression indicating those possessing a certificate stating that they are of European origin.

Mr. ZADOTTI (Italy): I thank the special representative for his reply and, of course, I shall not press this point. I was only wondering whether, considering that the term "European" has a more or less geographical meaning, assimilés refers to other continents than Europe, or merely to another class of personnel.

Mr. DENIAU (Special representative) (interpretation from French): I have just found the passage in the annual report which was summarized by the Secretariat. It describes a certain number of activities and states that there has been an increase in personnel to 4,578, of whom 249 were non-indigenous. But I do not see any reference to an individual called an assimilé.

Mr. ZADOTTI (Italy): Probably it is just a word used by those who summarized the report. I shall not press for any further clarification. I only mentioned it because it seems to be a new term.

My last question refers to the annex to the working paper summarizing some of the petitions. I have particular reference to paragraph 4 which states:

"Some petitions and communications also complain of... the visit to the Territory made by the Minister for Overseas France, etc." (T/L.756)
It is difficult for me to imagine what the complaint could be, but perhaps the special representative could give me some information on this point.

Mr. DENIAU (Special representative) (interpretation from French): I can see only one explanation. This condensation made by the Secretariat indicates that the population complains of the absence of visits to the Territory by the Minister for Overseas France. It is true that he did not come to the Territory in 1955. I think this is just a telescoped statement which indicates that the population regrets the lack of such a visit.

U KYAW MIN (Burma): There are very few questions left for me to ask, but I have a question in regard to the tanning industry. It will be recalled that, at its seventeenth session, the Council requested the Administering Authority to study the application of appropriate methods to obtain better

results in the processing of cattle hides. I should be interested in knowing whether that study has been undertaken in pursuance of the Council's request and, if so, whether the special representative would tell us what the results have been.

I should like to know also whether the possibility has been explored of establishing a paying tanning industry in the Territory.

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

I am afraid that I cannot give a very satisfactory reply. I know that studies have been undertaken along this line with regard to a tanning industry, but I do not know what the results have been. I do not think that anything practical has been achieved, although the study has been continuing. A special effort was made with regard to the meat supply and the canning of meat for distribution in the Territory. The tanning of cattle hides has been studied, but I do not know the results.

The PRESIDENT: May I just inform the special representative that the Secrétariat was able to find out the origin of the word "assimilée". This word will be found in the annual report, page 15, the second paragraph, which reads: "La population européenne et assimilée comptait au dernier recensement officiel...". I have made reference to this in case the special representative would care to reply to the representative of Italy.

Mr. DENIAU (Special representative) (interpretation from French): This is an entirely different problem. In the previous case it was a question of the distribution of medical personnel. Here we are dealing with the entire population of the Territory and that is why the expression is used. We are speaking here of European and assimilated population. The foreign population of the Territory is the non-African population. That includes many Lebanese who are not strictly speaking Europeans, yet they are not Africans either. As regards medical personnel, where we deal with officials, this expression was entirely surprising, for there is no differentiation as to origin with regard to the civil service. There is only a difference in the diploma. This term of "assimilated population" is a sort of shorthand expression.

U KYAW MIN (Burma): My next question concerns the recently completed aluminium plant. In this respect I find that certain aspects of my original questions were already dealt with yesterday by the representatives of the United Kingdom and New Zealand and some of the points on which I intended to request clarification have somewhat been cleared up by the special representative in his replies. The questions I shall now put to the special representative are intended merely to obtain additional information to that already furnished.

The first point on which I should be grateful to receive some further clarification or information is as to whether any aluminium deposits have been located in the Territory as a result of geological surveys. It appears that the aluminium processing plant which has been set up in the Territory is at present rather dependent on the raw materials supplied by France.

Mr. DENIAU (Special representative) (interpretation from French): The interpretation given by the representative of Burma is correct. There have been no bauxite deposits discovered in the Territory. The raw materials used at the Edéa plant comes from France.

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at the Edéa plant comes from France.

U KYAW MIN (Burma): I wonder whether the special representative could tell me if there are sources of raw material other than France.

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

At this time there are no other areas than France which bring raw materials to the plant at Edéa. It is probable that later on bauxite will be brought in from French Guinea. But this is a prospect which is not yet a reality. I do not know to what extent Guinea bauxite will take the place of French bauxite. That is a matter for the future.

U KYAW MIN (Burma): Yesterday, in reply to a question posed by the representative of New Zealand, the special representative stated that a factory had been set up in the Territory for the purpose of manufacturing small products. I wonder what the capacity of this factory is and whether it could absorb the aluminium which will be produced by the processing plant which, we are told, could reach an annual output of 4,500 tons.

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

First of all, I wish to correct a figure mentioned by the representative of Burma. The factory at Edéa is expected to yield 45,000 tons of aluminium, but its production for the moment is only 10,000 tons in this first year. I do not think that the factory manufacturing small products in Edéa-Bassa will use all this aluminium, for little aluminium will be required by them. What is important about this factory is that it exists at all, and not its size. It will experiment with the manufacture of various aluminium items. I think that this factory is likely to expand, depending on the results which will be achieved.

U KYAW MIN (Burma): Could the special representative tell me the manner in which the surplus aluminium produced by the plant, when it reaches its full production, will be disposed of. Would it be exported to France, for instance, and there to be turned into finished consumer products and then to re-export it possibly to the same Territory?

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

This is a rather long-term view of the situation, because aluminium is just beginning to be produced. The month of February of this year was the first production. I do not know exactly how all this will develop. In principle I believe that this aluminium will be sent to France. The exact conditions under which this will be done, or whether it will be sent to other Territories, or whether it will be kept in the Territory, cannot really be indicated at this time, nor can we give any supplementary information. We will have to wait until the plant has been functioning for a year at least before we can say whether the product will be exported or not, and so on.

U KYAW MIN (Burma): The reason why I stressed this point was because my delegation felt some concern at the fact that in the long run the very nature of this plant, the very fact that it is dependent upon raw materials imported from abroad, might seriously jeopardize its effective functioning.

Mr. BARGUES (France) (interpretation from French): We must consider the fact that a considerable use of aluminium is related to specialized industries; for instance, the aircraft industry and the railroad industry. Those are the industries which use aluminium on a large scale and the Territory, of course, has not yet reached this degree of industrialization. Also, there is a shortage of skilled manpower which would make it possible to develop an aircraft industry in the Territory or a considerable railroad industry. So that at this time the most logical market for the aluminium is a market abroad. Aluminium is shipped abroad and is processed in factories which exist only in Europe and in North America.

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Aluminium is shipped abroad and is processed in factories which exist only in Europe and in North America. The fact that a factory depends on raw materials which come from the outside does not seem to be an objection to the satisfactory functioning, or an obstacle to the satisfactory functioning, of the operation of this plant. It is not always necessary to have raw materials in the vicinity of a plant. Thus rubber industries are not always located in countries producing rubber. They are usually in Europe or in North America. What is important is that a plant should be located where it is most rational and economical to locate it. What matters for aluminium is the possibility of having available cheap power. For instance, in Canada, because of the waterfalls, the cost of electric power is very low and that is also the case in the Cameroons. The Pechiney factories in France process aluminium ores which come from France, but power is rather expensive and that of course is a drawback. The cost of processing bauxite in the Metropolitan country is high. In the Cameroons, thanks to cheap power, it is more economical to process this bauxite. Much of the bauxite from Guinea goes to Canada for processing. North American factories usually receive bauxite from distant areas. Technicians are of the opinion that the best location for a factory is one where cheap power is available.

U KYAW MIN (Burma): I thank the representative of France for the clarifications he has offered. Of course, in posing these questions my delegation was prompted solely by the desire to see in the Territory industries which would benefit the Territory directly and not some other outside country. I shall not press this question any further.

There is only one more question which I should like to put. It is stated on page 173 of the report of the Trusteeship Council to the General Assembly (A/3170) under the heading "Agriculture", that:

"There is substantial European participation in the production of bananas, coffee, rubber and palm oil."

I wonder if the special representative could tell me what is the extent of European participation in the production of these principal agricultural commodities and also at what levels European participation is most pronounced.

Mr. DENIAU (Special representative)(interpretation from French): I already have had occasion, I believe, to give certain explanations with regard to bananas. The European and African production of bananas exported is more or less the same. I have already indicated that there is a substantial African production which is sold locally and which does not enter into statistics. That is one of the reasons for the difference that one can see in statistics as regards the yield as between the African plantations and the European plantations.

Regarding production for export, European production is approximately equal to African production.

With regard to rubber there is only one plantation in the Territory, the plantation of Dizangué. This plantation belongs to a very important company; it keeps its production steady from one year to the next. There is practically no indigenous production of rubber.

Rubber exported in 1955 went up to about 3,500 tons. As I have just indicated, this is a very low figure, but it all comes from the one plantation which maintains a steady production year in and year out. This type of exploitation does not yield a great deal of profit.

With regard to coffee, I pointed out yesterday, in reply to a question from the representative of New Zealand, that there are both European and indigenous coffee plantations. I indicated why the yields seem to be so different in the various plantations, and I cited the figures in the annual report. I also said that the African coffee plantations were constantly increasing. We have a service at Dschang which promotes this development of African coffee plantations. This has been very successful, especially in the West.

With regard to exports, the amounts must be two-thirds for Africans and one-third for Europeans.

With regard to palm oil, I would not say that there is any European participation, but there are certain palm oil processing plants which are run by European companies, and our modernization service also has a hand in this. It deals with the raw materials bought and furnished by the indigenous inhabitants; it refers rather to industrial raw materials rather than of production raw materials, properly speaking.

U KYAW MIN (Burma): I do not think the special representative has answered the second part of my question. I wanted to know at what levels the European participation is most pronounced.

Mr. DENIAU (Special representative) (interpretation from French): I thought that the representative of Burma was asking whether this participation was in production, marketing or export. What does he mean by "levels"? If he means production, then I have already replied. If he has another question in mind, I apologize for not being able to give specific information.

The PRESIDENT: Will the representative of Burma clarify his question?

U KYAW MIN (Burma): By levels I mean whether Europeans participate in the production of these commodities as managers, owners of plantations or as labourers -- which I do not think is the case.

Mr. DENIAU (Special representative) (interpretation from French): There are very few manual workers who are Europeans in these various plantations but in certain fields there are a great number of small owners or settlers who work themselves on the plantations. They are not employed by someone else but they do physical work themselves. This is particularly the case in the banana plantations. Some of them are owned by large companies but others are operated by individuals who have planted the banana trees themselves, who bring in the crops and work very hard on their plantations. This is also the case in almost all the coffee plantations. They do not belong to companies but to individuals. As regards rubber, there is only one enterprise and that is a large company.

U KYAW MIN (Burma): I thank the special representative for the answers he has given. I have no more questions to ask.

Mr. DORSINVILLE (Haiti) (interpretation from French): I had a note with respect to paragraph 240 of the report of the Visiting Mission to which the representative of Italy referred. In accordance with some of the replies given by the special representative, I perceive that the Administration duly realizes that the

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budget of the Territory at present contains the operating budget for the Territory and that about 50 per cent of the budget for the Territory represents the operating budget and this will be under the responsibility of the future Cameroonian Government.

Could the special representative give us further information on this point and tell us whether in fact the Cameroonian Government will, in the near future, be called upon to assume responsibility for the Territory and what the budgetary situation will be for that Government? Has this question already been considered in the Territory and are there any plans which have already been envisaged for the future Cameroonian Government?

Mr. DUNIAU (Special representative) (interpretation from French): The draft Statute for the Cameroons contains an article which states that the date when these financial provisions will enter into force will be the subject of an agreement between the Government of the Cameroons and the Government of France so that this Cameroonian Government will assume the financial responsibility for the Territory only when it feels itself able to do so. That means it will be responsible for the financial life of the Territory at a time when it has confidence and knowledge and not while it is unable to assume these responsibilities fully, as at present. The budget for 1957 is therefore a budget which has been entirely prepared by the Administering Authority. It is now, as we are considering it here, being discussed by the Territorial Assembly of the Cameroons. The budget was prepared by the Administering Authority; it will be discussed by the Territorial Assembly, which will be the future Legislative Assembly. This Assembly will of course study it from the point of view of its future responsibility and the responsibility of the Government of the Cameroons in the future.

There are important items in the budget which will have to do with the installation of the new Government. But since the financial situation in the Territory is not very favourable at the present time because of the burdens which I have already described, the new budget will make provision for a certain number of measures -- very strict measures -- in the financial field.

A certain number of decisions have already been made. The High Commissioner has told the Territorial Assembly that the budget which he is presenting is a

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budget of austerity. Thus, the Territory has given up an option on certain stocks of certain companies. As far as the allocations for personnel are concerned reductions have been made and a great number of officials of European origin -- about 10 per cent of the total -- will be sent back to the Metropolitan country, not to speak of temporary officials whose contracts have been cancelled in many cases. Appropriations for materiel have been severely cut and will be cut further by about 100 million this year. In addition, there will be no allocation this year for new equipment because this comes no longer under the budget but under the plan.

It has been observed that certain communities have abundant resources, while the territorial budget is very hard pressed. It was therefore decided that certain expenditures should be charged to communal resources. On the other hand, a certain number of increases in taxes will be necessary. I am now describing the draft budget for 1957 -- I do not know how it will come out of the deliberations of the assembly. The custom of the assembly is to make drastic changes in the proposals which come before it.

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There will be an increase of about two per cent in consumption taxes on imported items. There will be an increase in the turnover tax. Certain exemptions will be removed. Certain indirect taxes will be increased. The general income tax will be revised. A special tax on corporations will be extended. The rates applicable to the cutting of trees in forests will be revised. There will be a guarantee of a balanced budget. A sort of subsidy will be requested of the metropolitan country, which will be added to the contribution it has already made to the budget of the Territory.

In order to balance the 1957 budget, the Administration of the Territory has presented a budget which involves a reduction of expenditures, especially for personnel and equipment, and an increase in certain fiscal burdens, especially as regards import duties. Finally, a subsidy from the metropolitan country is requested.

Mr. DORSINVILLE (Haiti) (interpretation from French): I am most grateful to the special representative for the information he has just given on a subject which was of some concern to us. As I have stated, we know that the future Government of the Cameroons will be solely responsible for the budget of the Territory. Therefore, we are happy to hear the information given to us and to know that the Territorial Assembly will have to consider seriously this austerity budget for 1957.

I should like to put a question on a matter to which the special representative has just referred: trade unions in the communes. When we visited the Territory, mention was made that it was considered desirable to group together manpower from certain communes in order to carry out certain public works of general interest since some communes did not have sufficient resources themselves to undertake that work. Could the special representative give us some information on this matter?

Mr. DENIAU (Special representative) (interpretation from French): I believe that I mentioned briefly in my introductory statement that a certain number of Syndicat de Communes had indeed been established and that they were now in operation. In general they concern communities in the same region. In other words, communities in a given region form a syndicate. Four have been

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established, some regional and some inter-regional. In a co-operative way they buy road-building material which a single community cannot afford. The necessary equipment for road-building or for the maintenance of roads exceeds the resources of a single community. Therefore, this system of solidarity is most beneficial.

Mr. DORSINVILLE (Haiti) (interpretation from French): We know that the Administering Authority has attached great importance to the paysannat postes. Can the special representative tell us what their development has been since they are a creation of the Administering Authority?

Mr. DENIAU (Special representative) (interpretation from French): This formula of the postes de paysannat, which was studied by the Visiting Mission, has been well received by the population after some time of hesitation, and the number of stations established is growing each year. There were fourteen in 1956; I think there will be more in 1957. In particular, they have been developed in the regions which thus far have not known of this experience -- that is, in the east and the west. The Bamiléké country, which is extremely jealous of its local independence and of each of its communities, which insist on living without interference in its affairs, has also demanded the extension of the paysannat system and stations have been established in that region. This experiment is continuing.

Mr. DORSINVILLE (Haiti) (interpretation from French): In the North of the Territory we know that there is a large Kirdi population. At Kosa there was a colonization project for the Kirdis. The Administering Authority endeavoured to lead this population, which was located in the mountains, toward the plains. This colonization project at Kosa was a pilot project and on its success depended the extension of these colonizations in order to lead the population toward the plains and enable them to become integrated more and more with the economy of the country.

Could the special representative tell us what has been the success of this colonization project at Kosa and whether the Administering Authority has been

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able to extend this project to other centres in the North of the country because, as I said, this question concerns the Kirdi population?

Mr. DENIAU (Special representative) (interpretation from French): The representative of Haiti has just raised one of the most important questions concerning not only the future of the North but of all the Cameroons: the question of the development of the Kirdi population, which is extremely numerous and which is located in the mountain region, where they have little to eat and where they are somewhat outside the main currents of social development, as the representative of Haiti said the other day, toward more modern ways.

The experiment at Kosa, about which the representative of Haiti spoke, is actually in being. It is being continued and extended. It is too early to say whether or not it will be a success. In such a field as that of changing the habits, the place of living and the way of life of a population, an experiment which has lasted only a few years is not conclusive as to whether the population in the future will remain where they are or will plunge their roots down in the region allocated to them without any pressure on the part of the Administering Authority. It may also turn out that this will be purely an artificial enterprise. It is too early to reply now to the question of the representative of Haiti.

I am not able, consequently, to reply in a definite way on the success of this experiment. The first impression is favourable. The voluntary settlers are numerous. It is too early to say what the final outcome will be.

Mr. DORSINVILLE (Haiti) (interpretation from French): In the light of the reply just given by the special representative, does the Administering Authority consider that the province of the North, as it will be established in accordance with the new statute, will deal specifically with this rehabilitation of the Kirdi population?

Mr. DENIAU (Special representative) (interpretation from French): It will be a matter of prophesying what will be done by a local assembly which has not yet been formed. Its composition is not yet known. This will be a matter for

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the legislative assembly itself. All I can do now is to speculate. I assume that this Assembly will deal more actively with this question since the majority of its electors are Kirdis and the Kirdis, as we saw during the last elections, if they were not as active in the elections as other inhabitants, they nevertheless did participate in them. The political struggle has been important enough and the Kirdis have shown an interest for the first time in the contents of the different programmes of the candidates. I believe, therefore, that this Assembly of the North, which they may nominate if they so desire since they are in the majority, will come into being very soon and will have to deal with this situation.

Mr. DORSINVILLE (Haiti)(interpretation from French): We had occasion to visit the region of Babimbi, and the condition of the roads there was deplorable. I should like to know whether improvements have been made in this sector. We know that the local authorities complained of their isolation. Could the special representative give us information on this? When I speak of the local authorities, I am referring to the indigenous inhabitants as well as to the chief of the subdivision, the representative of the Administering Authority in Babimbi. Has there been any improvement in this respect?

Mr. DENIAU (Special representative)(interpretation from French): If there is no objection on the part of the representative of Haiti, I should prefer not to reply to this question until tomorrow. I have no regional information available now and I myself am not familiar with these regional problems. Therefore, I might be sticking out my neck if I replied. If I may, I should like to check my documentation before replying tomorrow.

Mr. DORSINVILLE (Haiti)(interpretation from French): I am most grateful to the special representative that he will give attention to this particular point.

In the report of the Visiting Mission, paragraph 184 contains an observation with respect to the state of cocoa plantations in the Territory in general. We observed that these plantations were badly maintained and that the yield was very low, and the information given to the Visiting Mission, contained in paragraph 184, indicates that the local planters obtained 1,300 grammes per tree whereas with an improved variety they could obtain one and a half kilogrammes from each tree. The Visiting Mission, when it visited the Territory, drew the attention of the Administering Authority to this neglect of the plantations. We should like to know whether there has been any improvement in this respect. We know that there is a sector for the modernization of cocoa plantations. Has this sector been able to introduce greater care in the cocoa plantations?

Mr. DENIAU (Special representative)(interpretation from French): This is a long-term problem, as was observed by the Visiting Mission. Many plantations are indeed poorly maintained. New varieties might help, but it is mainly a matter of proper cultivation. As was said by the representative of Haiti, it is for

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the cocoa industry itself to take measures for the improvement of the yields. Technical guidance is necessary for the planters, but many planters are reluctant to make changes in their methods of cultivation as long as they have trees which still give some yield. The roots of many cocoa trees have been treated, and the yield has been improved in many cases. Efforts in that direction have been beneficial, since cocoa production has maintained its level while prices have declined, and there were also various plant diseases. The problem has not yet been resolved. What we may say is that there are good indications that we are now moving toward an improvement in the situation and in many sectors results have already been achieved.

Mr. DORSINVILLE (Haiti)(interpretation from French): I come now to my last question. Much has been said by ENELCAM and ALUCAM. These are two corporate enterprises of the greatest importance. There was some concern as to how the population of the Territory would benefit or already benefits from these two enterprises. The special representative, I believe, stated that the Territory participated to some extent in the capital investment, and the representative of France himself has emphasized that these industries require technicians, who at present can come only from abroad. What I am interested in now is to know whether there is a training plan for the Cameroonians in the technical sectors of these industries. Could the special representative give us some information on this matter? The industries exist, and normally there is a certain number of Cameroonians employed in various jobs, but what we should like to know is whether it is envisaged that Cameroonians be introduced into the higher levels as well.

Mr. DENIAU (Special representative)(interpretation from French): The training of Cameroonians as specialized technicians for hydroelectric plants and for aluminium plants is done in two ways. On the one hand, in metropolitan areas, a certain number of Cameroonians have been sent to study in technical schools which train them for positions in the hydroelectric industry or in the aluminium industry. One such Cameroonian has already graduated from such a school and is now serving as an engineer in a hydroelectric plant; others will follow in the years to come. This is the highest form of specialized training.

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Now locally, in ENELCAM and ALUCAM, a certain number of Cameroonians are trained. They become familiar with certain techniques and they become foremen rather than engineers. A great number of Cameroonians already have specialized jobs in those two companies in addition to the labourers who are employed there. Many related jobs in these companies are held by Cameroonians. For instance, the operators of certain machines are usually Cameroonians. However, as regards electrical specialists in hydroelectric plants, there is special training for locally recruited personnel, so that they could qualify for certain responsible positions. I do not know what the proportion of Cameroonians is, but there are a certain number in the hydroelectric plant, and the aluminium company wishes to withdraw as many as possible of its European employees in order to replace them with Cameroonians, and therefore it wishes to train Cameroonians and does so out of purely commercial considerations.

Mr. DORSINVILLE (Haiti)(interpretation from French): I am very grateful the special representative for his kind replies.

The meeting was suspended at 4.00 p.m. and resumed at 4.15 p.m.

Mr. LOBANOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics)(interpretation from Russian): In 1955, there was issued permission to cut 1,229,741 hectares of forest. At the same time, the total forest area increased. This indicates a serious threat of the complete disappearance of the forest resources of the Territory. If we take into account the fact that the total surface covered by forests amounts to 15 million hectares, such a depletion might happen within the next decade. Could we be told whether the Administering Authority feels that there is such a danger, whether it takes into account such a danger, and what urgent measures are contemplated in order to meet this emergency?

Mr. DENIAU (Special representative)(interpretation from French): The representative of the Soviet Union has mentioned two figures, the extent of territory covered by exploitation permits and the surfaces newly planted. I believe that the comparison of these two figures does not give the exact situation. One must refer to all the information regarding the forest situation -- information given in the annual report. May I recall, without going into this at great length, that the Administering Authority would have wished, in accordance with the recommendations of the Trusteeship Council, to classify a large forest area, but it was not able to do so because of the lack of enthusiasm of the indigenous population which reflected the opposition of the population. Furthermore, in this field, classification is the best means for the protection of forests and to enrich them.

In the case of the exploitation permits, these are not implemented in accordance with very specific clauses, namely, that only a given type of wood may be used to the exclusion of another type, when it would not be sufficient yearly to cover the forests that are cut down, and this would result in deficits in the forestry system. Furthermore, not every tree can be cut down. There is a very strict supervision of the forest services in order to ensure that there will not be a rapid decrease of the forest supplies.

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representative)

As regards the surfaces referred to by the representative of the Soviet Union, these are surfaces newly planted, where there was no forest previously -- either where the forests have been destroyed by the indigenous inhabitants or where there have been no forests. This does not include those areas where there were forests previously, but only those areas where forests have not been the subject of special care. In the following paragraph of the report, it is indicated that 70,000 hectares are being enriched with special species in the classified forests.

May I say to the representative of the Soviet Union that one cannot consider that, on the one hand, there are more than 1 million hectares of forests that disappear and 400 hectares of forests that are born, but, on the contrary, there are more than 1 million hectares of which some areas can be usefully exploited and 400 hectares are new -- they were reafforested in 1955 -- and there are large areas of classified forests which are continually being enriched through the efforts of the Administering Authority. This perimeter of protection could be much wider if we did not come across the opposition of the population, as I have indicated.

Now, to come back finally to the perimeters that are being exploited: This exploitation is accompanied, as I have indicated, by a very strict supervision on the part of the forestry services, which see to it that trees cut down do not endanger the tree supply for the future.

Mr. LOBANOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): Shall I take it from the reply of the special representative that he denies the presence of a danger that forests might disappear in the Territory?

Mr. DENIAU (Special representative) (interpretation from French): I believe that the danger referred to by the representative of the Soviet Union does exist, but in a somewhat different manner from the way in which he conceives it. The danger resides in the way in which forests are being exploited by the indigenous inhabitants in the South Cameroons -- forests that are neither protected nor classified, and not conceded, so that these forests are left

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practically entirely at the disposal of the communities as regards the modes of exploitation, and these are generally merely for the fire. The intensive exploitation for the fuel -- even those that are slowly consumed under any conditions -- would not endanger the supply. In many cases, on the contrary, it would ensure continuance of a species, since some roads are built to the perimeters that are conceded, and more care is given to these areas. I believe that the danger for the forests in the Cameroons is not due to the exploitation permits granted but is to be found in areas where the indigenous inhabitants use the forests as they please, where they consider that it is their natural patrimony and dispose of it accordingly. I believe the Trusteeship Council has previously referred to this.

Mr. IOBANOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics)(interpretation from Russian): I am most grateful to the special representative for his clarification, but I should like to have clarified one point in his statement. He said that, as a result of the cutting of the forests which is taking place in an area of 2 million hectares -- that this permission was granted. But it is not quite clear whether new methods are being applied in the Territory for reafforestation. Are they perhaps methods which make it possible to replace the wood cut very rapidly? If there are such methods and if there are some new species which are being used, or some new other devices, that would be most interesting and we should like to know about that.

Mr. DENIAU (Special representative)(interpretation from French): I have indicated, in reply to a previous question of the representative of the Soviet Union, that forest exploitation in the areas granted refers to species that are either not rare or that are increasing rapidly and thus do not endanger the reafforestation of the area. That is the point that is carefully supervised by the forestry services. That is to say, these exploitation permits do not represent an attack on the wealth but merely are used for revenue.

Mr. LOBANOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): My next question is the following. The annual report indicates that there was a 50 per cent decrease in the imports of agricultural machines in 1955 as compared with 1954. Could the special representative tell us the reason for this rather drastic decrease?

Mr. DENIAU (Special representative) (interpretation from French): I do not have before me the table from which the Soviet Union representative obtained his information; I am, however, sure that he read the table correctly.

The explanation for this situation is that, as has been indicated, the first stage of the ten-year plan was devoted to equipment. During that stage, a large number of machines were introduced at all levels -- not only agricultural machines, but also construction machines, road-building machines, and so forth. During the second stage of the plan, the emphasis has been more on small rural development projects -- that is, projects necessary to the rural economy -- than on equipment, properly speaking.

The explanation for the decline in imports noted by the Soviet Union representative may be found in the fact that the equipment needs of the Territory in this respect have already been met to a degree. I note, furthermore, that this reduction related to a certain number of agricultural machines imported in 1954 and 1955, but that the figure for agricultural machines imported in 1955 is actually higher than the figure for 1953. In other words, there has been a decline in comparison with the maximum figure of imports, but not in comparison with the imports before the plan went into effect. Under the plan, a large amount of equipment -- machines, and so forth -- has been imported, and this, in turn, has led to the necessity of importing each year equipment necessary to keep these machines in good working order.

Mr. BARGUES (France) (interpretation from French): I think that it may be dangerous to draw absolute conclusions from the differences in the import figures for two successive years. The figures given in the annual report for imports are furnished by the Customs Service. Now, the accounts of the Customs Service are made at the time when the merchandise clears customs.

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I would add that merchandise clears customs at various times, depending on the arrival of ships -- and these arrival times constantly change. Let us suppose that a large shipment of agricultural machines is unloaded at Douala on 15 December. During the second half of December these machines will clear customs. The import figures for that year will therefore be very high. Let us then suppose that during the first months of the following year not much agricultural machinery arrives at Douala.

It is probably this kind of situation which explains the decrease mentioned by the Soviet Union representative. As the special representative said, the curve does not descend in a straight line. It goes up sharply from 1953 to 1954, and then it does down -- but much less sharply -- from 1954 to 1955. These, in fact, are the figures:

Imports of agricultural machinery in 1953: 101 tons

Imports of agricultural machinery in 1954: 392 tons.

In other words, the figure for 1954 is four times that for 1953. In 1955, the figure for imports in this respect amounted to 190 tons.

This kind of analysis can only be made on the basis of a rather large number of years. In the light of the explanations which I have just given on the way in which the statistics are drawn up, I would repeat that it would be wiser not to draw absolute conclusions.

Mr. IOBANOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): I am grateful to the representative of France for that explanation with regard to this very important question. I would only say this: I have not drawn any conclusions; I have merely asked why there was this rather considerable decrease in the imports of agricultural machinery. Nevertheless, I am compelled to draw the conclusion that the imports of machinery are based on amortization considerations. Do I understand correctly that there is no plan for a large-scale expansion of the amount of agricultural machinery in regions devoted to the cultivation of foodstuffs? If that understanding is not correct, I would ask the special representative to correct me.

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

I must confess that I cannot quite follow that question by the Soviet Union representative. Indeed, there is no over-all plan, properly speaking, for agriculture in general in the Territory, and particularly the cultivation of foodstuffs, to which the Soviet Union representative has referred. There is no State control over the cultivation of foodstuffs. What the Administering Authority does, through the intermediary of parassanat organizations -- particularly the modernization sections, the agricultural services, and so forth is to place at the disposal of private planters a certain number of techniques and methods which they can use once they have understood the advantages of such techniques and methods. The Administering Authority, however, does not set up State enterprises to take the place of individual planters in the production of foodstuffs.

In any case, this cultivation and production is now a local operation, as it were. Each village produces the foodstuffs which it needs; each community produces what it needs.

To complete this explanation, I would add that some attempts in this field were made by the municipality of Douala. This municipality wished to provide foodstuffs very cheaply to the social restaurants of the town which have the purpose of selling meals at a low price to the workers of Douala. It also wished to sell to the magasins-témoins whose purpose it is to keep prices of foodstuffs at a level low enough to meet the purchasing power of the inhabitants of Douala; this is accomplished by the mere fact that these magasins-témoins themselves sell at low prices. Thus, the municipality of Douala bought some land in the Nkam region, on which it wished to produce foodstuffs according to methods which the Soviet Union representative might regard as falling within a general plan -- that is, it wished during a period of several years to cultivate a certain area of land under rational and mechanical methods. This attempt was abandoned because it was found that the price of foodstuffs thus produced was higher than that of foodstuffs obtained under the local production system which I have already described -- in other words, on land cultivated around each house by the women of the family or, sometimes, by the children, under the traditional methods of

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cultivation which do not require specialized labour or material or any particular supervision and which, because of the seasonal rhythm which has been observed in this respect for a very long period of time, is not subject to the kind of fluctuations which might lead these people to try a rational system of exploitation.

The second reason why the above-mentioned experiment was abandoned was that the indigenous inhabitants of the region where the municipality of Douala carried out the experiment protested against what they regarded as unacceptable competition in an area where these indigenous inhabitants had traditionally known that they could sell their products.

I think that this information will enable the Soviet Union representative better to understand how foodstuffs are cultivated in the Cameroons.

Mr. LOBANOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): I am most grateful to the special representative for the full explanation which he has given, but the essence of my question was the following. To what extent is mechanization being introduced into the economies of the indigenous inhabitants of the Territory who do not grow coffee and cocoa but who produce, for example, ground nuts, the basic product of the indigenous population of the Territory? If this is too complicated a question, I shall not press for a reply.

Mr. BARGUES (France) (interpretation from French): With respect to the last two or three questions put by the representative of the Soviet Union, I should like to make some general remarks.

When trying to evaluate the possible development of mechanization in agricultural production, one must proceed with caution. For example, in the Soviet Union -- and this is possibly what has influenced the views of the representative of the Soviet Union -- as well as in the United States and some Latin American countries, mechanization of agriculture has been carried out on a very large scale and, since the results were excellent in terms of increasing the yield and lowering the sale prices, it was considered to be a panacea and the idea was that it should be instituted everywhere and that there would be an increase in yield and a decrease in prices by such means.

I shall not take the Cameroons as an exact example, but in Western Europe, where lands are divided into very small areas, methods introduced in the Soviet Union or the United States -- where exploitation is carried out on a large scale -- by the use of mechanization have given disappointing results. Although there was at first great enthusiasm for large types of agricultural machinery, there is now a quite different sort of judgement. Without giving up mechanization completely, it is felt that there must be adaptation of exploitation to the customs of the workers.

That is the problem which arises in African territories. Thus, in the Cameroons, when we speak of mechanization, the representative of the Soviet Union thinks in terms of tractors and other agricultural machinery; but we endeavour to improve cultivation conditions on a far more modest scale. We try to replace the traditional manual tools by a cart. A cart is a familiar thing to Western

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countries, and has been for many centuries, but it was unknown in Africa until a few decades ago. We must consider whether it is wise to go directly from the spade to the plough, and it is questionable whether the use of these tractors is really advisable.

May I say to our colleagues that the production of foodstuffs is a result of minor family cultivation, in which all the members of the family participate to some extent -- not only the men, but the women and children as well, and even the old people. There is not much fatigue involved, but the yield is sufficient and enables the family to live and to market the surplus. Clearly, then, the use of agricultural machinery could not, in such cases, have good results, and it has been necessary for us to go back to the traditional system. At the same time, however, we have improved the procedure by the introduction of the plough without going on to an elaborately planned exploitation and the extensive use of large types of agricultural machinery. This latter procedure can be followed in large areas where exploitation is co-operative and where agricultural mechanization has, in fact, produced excellent results.

Mr. LOBANOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): I am grateful to the representative of France for that interesting information. I quite understand that mankind did not immediately reach the stage of being able to use complicated agricultural machinery. The transition from the plough to the tractor required several thousands of years, and I am far from wishing to imply that the representative of France should recommend that the population of the Cameroons should proceed from the plough to the tractor except by gradual means. However, a thousand years for such transition may not be necessary, perhaps not even a hundred years, and I do not believe that that is what the representative of France intended to imply. For my part, I did not propose that tractors and complicated agricultural machinery should be used in the Territory, but perhaps some different types of machines would be useful there which are known to the Administering Authority, and perhaps even to the indigenous population, better than to me. I was only wondering what is being done to facilitate labours of the indigenous population.

Mr. BARGUES (France) (interpretation from French): I share fully the views of the representative of the Soviet Union with respect to the desirability of improving cultivation methods and introducing agricultural machinery. I merely wished to draw his attention to the difficulties which we have encountered, and shall undoubtedly encounter in the future, in this introduction. As I see it, some machinery must be used because what is now used in the country is quite different even from what was used previously in the Soviet Union and the United States. In the latter countries it is manufactured and the people are accustomed to certain conditions, but in Africa we encounter various difficulties. We have centres for agricultural mechanization where we endeavour to use those types of machines which seem better suited to African cultivation.

When I mentioned some of the difficulties which we encountered I forgot to mention one which is by no means the least. We have noticed that African soil is very fragile. The layer of arable land is extremely thin and the use of heavy wheels, for example, would speed the process of land exhaustion.

Mr. LOBANOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): My next question refers to page 306 of the annual report which gives information concerning imports of alcoholic beverages. According to this information imports of wine were reduced by 10 million francs approximately during one year; but the imports of beer increased by approximately 49 million francs during the same period. Now, the following data are apparent. Instead of 48 tons of wine, 1,627 tons of beer were imported. Thus, the consumer, instead of drinking one bottle of wine, is drinking 34 bottles of beer.

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Could we be told whether this is a kind of struggle against alcoholism or whether different reasons account for it?

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

I am sorry that I was not able to follow the details of the calculation of the replacement of wine bottles by beer bottles. I am not in a position to indicate whether the calculations of the representative of the Soviet Union were accurate. What I can say is that this is a general trend of the Cameroonian market as regards alcoholic beverages and spirits. The representative of the Soviet Union will note that the imports of wine and liqueurs and aperitives have diminished and, as he has observed, the beer imports have increased.

These are new customs adopted by the Cameroonian consumers, to a large extent under the encouragement of the Administering Authority and of the local authorities. The beers which are imported are very low in their alcoholic contents. It is considered to be a healthy drink and is not subject to the same taxes and the same fiscal charges as wines and liqueurs. On the other hand, obtaining licenses for alcoholic beverages in the Cameroons is very difficult and it has been the subject of very complete legislation, and has been further burdened by a decree for French Overseas Territories and by local decree. On the other hand, the sale of beer does not call for such licenses and therefore can be carried out more easily. This is done because there is not the same danger of alcoholization.

Furthermore, a brewery has been installed in the Cameroons. Instead of competing with the imported beer, the existence of this brewery in the Territory, which provides beer at low prices, has given the Cameroonian consumers a new habit of beer consumption, which in turn has given rise in an increase in beer imports.

This is the explanation for the facts noted by the representative of the Soviet Union. It is a result of the anti-alcoholic struggle of the Administering Authority.

Mr. LOBANOV (Union Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): I am not one of those who considers himself an expert in the field of

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alcoholic beverages, but I certainly would not encourage the habit of drinking beer, because in my view beer is also an alcoholic beverage. If the population is encouraged to drink beer and if it then passes on to stronger beverages, I doubt whether that would be considered a success.

Mr. BARGUES (France) (interpretation from French): Ideally, it is obvious that the Cameroonians should not consume anything except non-alcoholic beverages. However, as has been observed in many countries where there was prohibition, far from reducing the consumption of alcoholic beverages, the result was the contrary; and in order to be able to avoid the law there was a consumption of improper alcoholic beverages. Locally, it might be felt that an intermediate means could give some results which, if they were not fully satisfactory, were at least valuable. It might be desirable to pass from wine to coca cola, but perhaps we should start at the intermediate stage, beer. There is all the more merit in my saying this since I come from a country which produces wine.

Mr. LOBANOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): I am most grateful to the representative of France for his clarification. I merely wished to emphasize that as far as I am concerned, it is most important that the Administering Authority should see the danger which comes from this evil which is spreading in the Territory. If the Administering Authority sees the danger and takes the necessary steps, then I think there is no reason for concern.

I will now proceed with my next question. Prospecting for petroleum has been undertaken by a certain company, as we have been told. I should like to know the nationality of that company, who controls the company, and what are the terms on the basis of which work is carried out? Is there an agreement with the company and for what duration?

Mr. DENIAU (Special representative) (interpretation from French): SEREPCA, which is the company which does the prospecting for oil in the Cameroons, is a French company, the main headquarters of which is in Yaoundé, in the Cameroons itself. The capital is distributed as follows: Office of

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Petroleum Investigation, 51 per cent of the shares; Caisse centrale de la France d'outre-mer, 22 per cent; Territory of the Cameroons, 11 per cent; and two petroleum societies, one with 10 per cent and the other with 5 per cent. The participation of private societies for petroleum research accounts for 15 per cent. I have given the approximate percentages.

This company, therefore, has authorization to carry out research in the south of the Cameroons. I am trying to find the latest information requested by the representative of the Soviet Union concerning the time during which this company is to carry out the prospecting in the Cameroons. I do not have this information immediately at hand, but I shall try to find it.

Mr. LOBANOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): I have a second question in this connexion. I note that among the members of this company is the Territory of the Cameroons. That is how it is referred to in the report. What does this term mean? On what basis does the Territory itself participate in the company? What proportion of shares does it control, and who represents the Territory in the company?

Mr. DENIAU (Special representative) (interpretation from French): The percentage of shares held by the Territory is 11.3 per cent exactly. Two councillors of the Territorial Assembly, elected by the Assembly itself, represent the Territory in the company.

Mr. LOBANOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): Are there any other agreements for the prospecting of mineral resources of the Territory? If there are such agreements, what are the terms and what is the duration?

Mr. DENIAU (Special representative) (interpretation from French): Apart from the prospecting permits given to this company SEREPCA, a certain number of permits were granted to private individuals with respect to gold and bauxite. There are no companies, among these, comparable to SEREPCA; that is to say, having such vast means as SEREPCA or having as wide objectives as SEREPCA. I believe that the annexes in the annual report give the figures for the production of the holders of these prospecting permits and the amount of minerals exploited every year.

Mr. LOBANOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics)(interpretation from Russian): If possible, I should like to have the special representative tell me during a coming meeting the duration for which these concessions have been granted.

I now wish to ask my last question. The special representative told us that a factory is being built in the Douala region, a chemical factory which will produce a certain quantity of synthetic oils which are derivatives of natural gas. I should like to know how these products will be used. Will the products be used in the Territory or will the two main products be exported to some other place? If possible, I should like to have this explained.

Mr. DENIAU (Special representative)(interpretation from French): When I described the possible future activities of SEREPFA, I did state that this was a project that was to be implemented during this year but that the factory was not yet operating. I am sorry, therefore, not to be in a position to reply now to the question of the representative of the Soviet Union and state exactly what use is to be made of the products supplied by this factory. As I have indicated, gasoline might be used for motor cars or for other motors. Methane could be used for a power plant. As regards butane and propane, I cannot give any specific information. I believe that butane will be used mainly in homes.

Mr. LOBANOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics)(interpretation from Russian): I thank the special representative for his clarifications, but I wish to draw his attention to the fact that, as far as I know, butane and methane are the most valuable products of the processing of natural gas, and probably this plant is intended to produce precisely these products. They were mentioned as the main products by the special representative. I assume that it was quite natural to show interest in these plans of the Administering Authority.

In conclusion, may I thank the special representative and the representative of France for the explanations which I have received from them.

Mr. MUFTI (Syria)(interpretation from French): On page 60 of the annual report under "Establishment of the budget" we read that the initiative for expenses belongs jointly to the Assembly and to the Chief of the Territory. My delegation would like to know whether the Territorial Assembly has the power to modify or refuse some expenses proposed by the Chief of the Territory. Which authority would have the last word in the case of conflict between the Territorial Assembly and the Chief of the Territory?

Mr. DENIAU (Special representative)(interpretation from French): The question of the representative of Syria refers to the conditions under which the budget of the Territory is discussed. In fact, the Administering Authority presents a draft budget to the Territorial Assembly, and this budget is modified first in the Commission and then in the Assembly. Sometimes it modifies the revenues and sometimes the expenditures, so that the Territorial Assembly does have the initiative in these two fields. The Assembly only has the duty to vote a balanced budget. That is all. If it votes a budget with expenditures that are higher than revenues, the budget cannot be put into force and certain measures would have to be taken. These measures are within the hands of the Minister for Overseas Territories, but this situation has never arisen. The Territorial Assembly, after the examination of the budget, has always submitted a balanced budget as regards revenues and expenditures. Therefore, there has been no problem of conflict.

Mr. MUFTI (Syria)(interpretation from French): On page 70 of the report under the heading "Financial transfers", we read that financial transfers of every nature are authorized by l'Office des changes, and that particularly important are the transfers requested to cover profits made in the Cameroons by foreign companies. It further states that, on the other hand, important sums are granted to resident foreigners so that they can send help to their families.

Could the special representative give us some information and a few figures concerning this passage which I have just cited? My delegation would particularly like to know the maximum sums whose transfer is authorized in the following cases: the transfer requested to cover a profit made by a foreign company; secondly, transfers for family assistance; and thirdly, transfers representing salary savings.

Mr. DENIAU (Special representative)(interpretation from French): I am sorry, but I am not in a position to reply to the question put by the representative of Syria. These transfers are in some way operating transfers, where it is a question of the profits of foreign companies or foreigners sending money to their families which have remained abroad. In accordance with what I have said, these transfers are generally requested by residents who are from the Middle East, mainly from Lebanon or from Greece, and who send money to their families and their country. I am sorry, but I cannot give any further figures with respect to the amounts of the transfers for 1955.

Mr. BARGUES (France)(interpretation from French): I should like to indicate that these transfers refer to those which are carried out outside of the franc area. As regards transfers requested by foreigners, it is important to know to where the transfer is to be made; that is to say, a foreign company can make a transfer from Douala to another place in the franc area. There is no authorization to be requested. The transfer is free. The transfers that must be authorized are the transfers of profits and family assistance that is requested by traders who have settled in Douala but who have come from a foreign country. As the special representative has indicated, these transfers are most often requested by people from the Middle East, from Lebanon and Greece. There is a monthly transfer that is authorized with respect to family assistance and salary savings. I believe that there is a different regulation applying to company profits. I think that there is more specific legislation although I cannot give more detailed information. I believe that in some cases all the profits can be transferred -- at least in some cases.

Mr. MUFTI (Syria)(interpretation from French): In the opinion of my delegation, the most important case is the question of transfers with regard to company profits in the Territory. My delegation would like to know whether the Administering Authority has statistics concerning such transfers made within the franc area itself.

Mr. DENIAU (Special representative) (interpretation from French): By definition, transfers carried out within the franc zone cannot be the subject of statistics, since these are completely free transfers which can be carried out by several means -- bank or telegraphic transfer, transport by the person concerned and so on -- and it is not possible to give statistics in this matter. I therefore apologize to the representative of Syria.

Mr. MUFTI (Syria) (interpretation from French): On page 72 of the report under the heading Structure and trends of the economy, we read that studies have been undertaken, along with the Government of Nigeria, of means to increase the duration of navigability of the river Bénoué. We attach great importance to this river navigation because of the low cost of its maintenance. We would therefore like to know what has been done in this field and what measures have been taken to develop this sort of transportation. We would also like to know whether the Administering Authority meets with any resistance here from any sectors which would be interested in developing land and railroad communications.

Mr. DENIAU (Special representative) (interpretation from French): The steps referred to by the representative of Syria for the improvement of navigability of the Bénoué river have been taken over a period of years in co-operation with the Government of Nigeria. The French authorities in the Cameroons and the British authorities in Nigeria have entrusted these studies of the tides of the Bénoué and the possibility of using the river for a longer period to a Dutch company which has carried out a certain number of studies. The purpose of such studies is to achieve a longer period of months during which the Bénoué river is navigable. Garoua can only be reached by boat from the end of July to October, when the water is high, and it would be most desirable for all the Cameroons if river transport could be carried out for a month or two longer. It was the intention to build a dam near Garoua which would regulate the tides in the Bénoué and enable us to have a longer period of navigation in the river. Studies are still being pursued, but the first conclusion of the studies -- and this is what is of interest to the representative of Syria -- are not very encouraging. That is to say, in order to achieve small results -- an increase of

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one month in the duration of navigability of the Bénoué -- we would have to undertake very large works near Garoua and these works would not be mortgageable. However, our efforts have not been abandoned and we have been endeavouring to see whether other means could be used.

In regard to the second question of the representative of Syria, as regards the north Cameroons, there is no opposition from any settlers or the indigenous population to any improvement in the conditions of the Garoua port or the navigability of the Bénoué river. The Garoua port takes up the traffic from all of the north Cameroons which cannot be carried by the railways. The railways constitute the main method of transport, but the railway does not go to Garoua and therefore there would be no objection.

As regards the roads, distances are so great between the North Cameroons and the South that road transport could not compete with water transport or fight against it.

The third means of transportation for produce in the North Cameroons is of course air transport, which has enabled the institution of meat distribution to which I have referred previously.

Mr. MUFTI (Syria) (interpretation from French): I thank the special representative for this information. On page 73, under the heading National Revenue, mention is made of certain difficulties making it impossible to obtain valid statistics. Has the Administration found any way of overcoming these difficulties and what are these measures, if any?

Mr. DENIAU (Special representative) (interpretation from French): The task of drawing up statistical information on national income is based on statistics and this statistical information in turn is based on somewhat incomplete information on financial activities, information obtained from the examination of accounts, statements of income and other sources of information which, in a territory like the Cameroons which has only an "incipient" economy, is very difficult to obtain. We do not have in the Cameroons this detailed information on accounts, registration documents and statistical information and it would be extremely difficult, for example, to indicate in figures the

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indigenous production of foodstuffs or transactions among the indigenous inhabitants with respect to local production of foodstuffs or products that are not sold for export. Furthermore, as the report indicates, the differences in prices may be quite considerable in neighbouring regions for very varied reasons and an estimate of the entire national income would be almost impossible.

Most of the Cameroonian companies do not have a complete system of accounts and they will not be able to initiate them tomorrow. Of course companies do not exist on the family level but most of the indigenous companies do not have the necessary accounts and statistics. If we were to ask them to set up a system of accounts, even with the greatest good will the Cameroonians could not do so because most of the time they take into account all sorts of family matters, assistance given by the family and so on, and in industry or agriculture this can hardly be stated in accounts any more than they can indicate that certain burdens have been borne. Therefore, I do not think that in the near future it will be possible to draw up an exact national income.

Mr. MUFTI (Syria). (interpretation from French): On this same page 73 we note that the Chamber of Commerce and of Industry, which plays a very important role in the direction of the economic activities of the Territory, has seventy members -- forty-four Europeans and twenty-six Africans -- whereas the Chamber of Agriculture has eighty-three members of which twenty-seven are Europeans and thirty-nine are Africans.

My delegation feels the composition of these two chambers is based upon a state of affairs which is not satisfactory. In effect, if the indigenous economic activities are not directed towards agriculture and if the industrial activities of the Territory are largely conducted by European companies, this situation is a sufficient reason for perpetuating this condition of economic inequality.

My delegation consequently deplores the small number of Africans in these two chambers and we would like to know whether the Administering Authority envisages increasing the number of Africans in these chambers.

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

I should first of all like to indicate that these two categories refer to differences in statute rather than to differences in nationality. The present composition of the Chamber of Commerce and the Chamber of Agriculture, as the representative of Syria has indicated, are in accord with the de facto situation. The number of Europeans who pay for patents is certainly higher than the number of Africans who do so. This is a de facto situation which is not frozen.

The African economy apart from the agricultural sectors has shown a general trend. The present situation, however, clearly shows that the non-Cameroonian organizations are the most important in industry and trade. The consular assemblies will be placed entirely in the hands of the Government and the Legislative Assembly, which will then legislate as it deems fit.

Mr. MUFTI (Syria)(interpretation from French): On page 75, three services are mentioned: the Service of Economic Affairs, the Planning Service and the Service of Rural Economy. My delegation would like to know whether Africans hold any high posts in these three services.

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

The representative of Syria has spoken of responsible administration posts and not of the less important ones. Therefore I shall reply only in respect to these.

To the best of my knowledge, this year two Cameroonians hold important posts in these three fields. One is a rural engineer entrusted with an important sector. The other is a Cameroonian student who, after obtaining his degree at law, has come back to the Territory and is in the Directorate of Economic Affairs in order to become familiar with the problems in the economic and administrative sectors. This does not hold much appeal for the Cameroonians who wish to hold other posts on their return from France. The young student to whom I have referred had to be persuaded by the local authorities to occupy the post of assistant chief, which he now holds.

Mr. MUFTI (Syria)(interpretation from French): On page 77 of the report, the French Textile Company is mentioned. We know that the production of textiles exceeded 2,000 tons and reached 4,500 tons in 1955. This is a remarkable increase. My delegation would like to know the composition of this company and the extent of the participation by indigenous inhabitants in its activities.

Mr. DENIAU (Special representative)(interpretation from French): May I complete the information by saying that for 1956 the cotton production likewise increased to more than 5,000 tons. The French Textile Company is a mixed economy company similar to the ones that we have. It is a State company, as is the majority we have considered so far. Its purpose is to develop cotton production, and I think it is to its credit that there has been this increase in cotton production. I do not have the details of the capital of the company for the development of textile fibres. The percentages I have indicated for the other companies will, I believe, give some indication to the representative of Syria.

The indigenous inhabitants participate directly in this company to the extent that production, marketing and processing of cotton fibres are carried out mostly by Cameroonians.

Mr. MUFTI (Syria)(interpretation from French): My delegation wonders how the information supplied with regard to other companies could usefully serve as terms of reference with regard to this company, concerning which I have asked for a certain amount of information.

Mr. DENIAU (Special representative)(interpretation from French): I must apologize to the representative of Syria. He has understood or I have badly explained this possible indication. What I stated was that the Textile Company was similar in type to the other companies to which I referred, in which a certain number of organizations participated and to which a certain number of companies contributed as to capital. I cannot state that the French Textile Company has been established along exactly similar lines, but the trend is shown. I am sorry not to be able to give the exact figures with respect to the composition of the capital in this case. By an indication, I meant that it was not a private

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company, but a State company. It was not a company that was profit producing. Its purpose was to increase cotton production.

Mr. MUFETI (Syria)(interpretation from French): Again with respect to textiles, we note that the Territory imports greater and greater quantities of textiles. In 1953, 2,000 tons were imported; in 1954, 3,000 tons were imported. My delegation would like to know whether there is any way of having the territorial textile industry supply the needs of the Territory with regard to cotton textiles.

Mr. DENIAU (Special representative)(interpretation from French): The increase of cotton imports referred to by the representative of Syria represents an improvement in the standard of living as well as an increase in products imported into the Cameroons in the last years. The textile industry in the Territory is in fact mostly represented by a company at Douala. It had to close its doors largely because of the difficulties it encountered because of the very minor output of the manpower it employed. For several years, this company endeavoured to produce textiles, but finally it had to close its doors. I do not know whether this is a final solution, but I do know that this first attempt, which was carried out with the full support of the local authorities, was not a happy one. Private companies, even when largely sustained by the Administration, are not encouraged by this first unfortunate experience.

Mr. MUFFI (Syria)(interpretation from French): We find mention of the directive committee of the FIDES with regard to the ten-year plan for equipment. We read that when the committee thinks that it is advisable to make modifications, additions or deletions in the programme presented, these ideas are presented to the Territorial Assembly, which decides whether they will be adopted or rejected. If they are rejected by the Assembly, further deliberation will also be submitted to the directive committee of FIDES. We should like to know who will have the last word, the Territorial Assembly or the directive committee, with regard to modifications introduced in the ten-year plan.

Mr. BARGUES (France)(interpretation from French): One must consider the problem in its entirety. The Territory requests the assistance of the organization called FIDES. If I borrow money from my banker, who will have the last word, the banker or myself? Obviously, the banker. I would go even further, because my reasoning has only applied to a very minor part of the sums supplied by FIDES. The Council is not unaware of the fact that FIDES gives assistance to the Territory in two forms: subsidies and reimbursable advances. In 1953 the subsidies were approximately 50 per cent; in 1956, 75 per cent; and now 80 per cent. The proportion of loans is only 80 per cent. Therefore, FIDES is a banker in 10 per cent and a donor in approximately 90 per cent of the cases. Therefore it is only logical that it should have the last word. I must say that this reasoning is theoretical because in the ten years' existence of FIDES I have never heard of any conflict between the Territorial Assembly of any Territory -- I am not referring specifically to the Cameroons -- and FIDES. If their views were divergent at the beginning, an agreement was always reached. To the best of my knowledge, the Territorial Assemblies have sometimes introduced radical changes to the FIDES suggestions, and FIDES has almost always acceded to the proposals of the Territorial Assembly.

In any case, the governing board of FIDES is an important body in which members of parliament of the Territories concerned are represented, so that, when the Territories give their agreement to the FIDES proposals, the Assembly

agrees to their views. This is how we proceed. The local organization draws up a draft programme, which is approved by the Assembly, and thus it is a sort of request for loans, and this is submitted to the governing board of FIDES. The latter sometimes institutes changes, usually not very important, and the Territorial Assembly either accepts these changes or suggests others, which are usually accepted by FIDES. There has been no acute conflict. As I have said, there might have been initial divergence of views, but a compromise solution has always been easily found.

Since I have the floor, may I come back for a minute to a question put, I believe, by the representative of Syria, to which neither the special representative nor myself could reply satisfactorily. I cannot give a complete reply, because the only information I have before me is rather inaccurate. This is the question regarding the transfer of capital outside the franc area. The only figures I have are those appearing on page 70 of the report. I believe that the transfers for family assistance and for salary savings must appear under "Opérations diverses", and it is not possible to make a division of this figure. As for profits, perhaps these come under "Income from Capital", which is shown as 97 million francs. As regards the transfer of profits, the Office des Changes, which grants the authorization, bases its decision on two facts. First of all, there must be a wide opportunity for the transfer of profits in order to make capital investments sufficiently attractive. Undoubtedly, when a company or a private individual wishes to invest funds in the Cameroons, they wish to have a guarantee that they will be able to transfer part of the profits from the Territory. The second consideration is the following one, which is somewhat contradictory to the first: obviously industrialists or traders must not be allowed to drain the Territory of its wealth. Therefore, it is necessary to oblige them to retain in the Territory and to reinvest in the Territory part of the profits they have obtained. It is on the basis of these two considerations that authorizations for transfer are granted.

Mr. MUFTI (Syria)(interpretation from French): On page 85 of the report, under the heading "Intervention of Specialized Agencies of the United Nations", we read the following passage:

"For the economic development of the Cameroons, no appeal was made to the United Nations or the specialized agencies or any international organ during the year 1955."

My delegation would like to know whether the Territory does not receive any technical assistance from the United Nations at the present time. If the answer is in the negative, we should like to know why such a situation prevails there.

Mr. DENIAU (Special representative)(interpretation from French): At present, to the best of my knowledge, the only programme being applied by an international organization in the Cameroons refers not to the economic part of the report but to the social part. It is a World Health Organization programme to combat malaria in the Cameroons. I believe that at present there are no other United Nations programmes of technical assistance that have been applied in the Cameroons.

Mr. MUFTI (Syria)(interpretation from French): My delegation would like to know whether the Administering Authority envisages having greater participation by United Nations agencies in the economic development of the Territory.

Mr. DENIAU (Special representative)(interpretation from French): The representative of Syria has asked us whether it is our intention to have recourse to the United Nations for technical assistance. As I have indicated, only the World Health Organization has implemented a programme for the Cameroons. Therefore, we have United Nations participation in activities in the Cameroons. This applies not only to this Territory but also to other Territories.

Mr. BARGUES (France)(interpretation from French): May I go back to the past, when the Cameroons did receive technical assistance. The only mention in the report is that we did not have recourse to technical assistance in 1955. But, in this respect, may I make a remark all the same: The Cameroons does receive technical assistance from abroad -- technical assistance given by France -- and France is very generous. May I mention in this respect that France, in the Territories entrusted to it, has expended a sum higher than all the sums expended by the International Bank in the entire world in ten years. Therefore, I think there are countries that do not have the good fortune to be able to benefit from the assistance given by a country such as France, and perhaps it would be better to reserve to these countries the technical assistance that can be given by the United Nations.

In this respect, I have figures, in French francs, for the sums given by France for various headings. Operation of services, investments, advances, loans granted by the Caisse centrale de la France d'Outre-Mer -- these sums were more than 10 billion francs in 1955 and 12.5 billion in 1956.

Mr. MUFTI (Syria)(interpretation from French): When I asked for information concerning United Nations technical assistance, I did not wish to minimize the important and healthy effects of the assistance furnished by France to this Trust Territory. I simply wanted to get information concerning this aspect of the problem.

I should now like to pass to my next question. On page 88, mention is made of trainees to be sent to France to follow a course in the co-operative movement. My delegation would like to know the number of trainees who were sent to France so far and the number of those who completed their training and returned to the Trust Territory.

Mr. DENIAU (Special representative)(interpretation from French): I believe that the Trusteeship Council was especially interested in this programme of specialists in co-operatives and adopted a recommendation in this respect. As is indicated in the report, in the passage referred to by the representative of Syria, two or three trainees come to France in order to study this co-operative movement, and this course lasts two or three years, so that at present there are approximately twelve who have followed this course.

Mr. MURTI (Syria)(interpretation from French): On page 94, we note that consumer goods represent an important part of the income of the Territory. Imports of beer have been mentioned. My delegation would like to put the following question: We should like to know whether there is no means of reducing the amounts of consumer goods imported into the Territory. We should also like to know whether such a reduction could not have a healthy effect on the trade balance of the Territory, which at the present time is in deficit.

Mr. DENIAU (Special representative)(interpretation from French): Such a limitation of imports of consumer goods could only take place if regulations were adopted by the Assembly, and I do not believe that such measures would be considered either acceptable or desirable by the Assembly or the Cameroon opinion it represents. An increase of the imports of consumer goods, as I have indicated, represents, and is an index of, the improvement of the standard of living of the Cameroonians, who now wish to have more varied products than they received before and in larger number. Blocking such imports, which would, on the one hand, give rise to an increase in the prices of the objects now to be found in the Territory, would be very unfavourably received by the majority of the Cameroonian public opinion, and I believe that in this field -- and except for the field of alcoholic beverages, where firm measures were taken by the Administering Authority together with the Territorial Assembly -- it would not be possible to do this.

Mr. BARGUES (France)(interpretation from French): The remark made by the representative of Syria is, of course, very wise, and it would be quite easy to set up barriers to the imports of products to the franc area. These products can only be imported with licences -- and, of course, in order to protect the currency, it would be easy to deny such licences. But, in the case of consumer goods, these very often come from the franc area, either from France or from Territories that supply the various products consumed in the Territory. Barriers to free circulation of goods and funds would be far more sensitive to implement. It is true that the trade balance is in a state of deficit -- and this is, of course, undesirable. But, on the other hand, it frequently occurs in a country

(Mr. Bargues, France)

that is trying to obtain equipment, where imports are necessarily very high and exports cannot immediately follow the same pace, where the pace of increase of production lags behind the increase in the import of equipment. But what is most important is the balance of accounts. The balance of trade is in a state of deficit, but the balance of accounts is not necessarily a deficit balance. I do not have the figures before me, but I believe that either it is in a state of surplus, partly because of the contributions of the metropolis -- there is a compensation because of this importation of funds from the metropolis and these transfers of funds carried on within the franc area -- and, if one is to take into account only the financial state of the Territory in the question of balance of payments, the situation of the Territory is not unfavourable. I do not think it desirable to brutally restrict imports of consumer goods, which might hamper the social development of the population and especially the improvement of its standard of living.

Mr. MUFTI (Syria) (interpretation from French): In suggesting the reduction of imports of consumer goods, my delegation did not intend to deprive the local population of these consumer goods. We simply wanted to know whether there was no means of producing in the Territory certain of these consumer goods. For example, the question of beer was brought up during this very meeting. We know that about 2,000 tons per year is imported into the Territory, that an increase of about 2,000 tons took place with regard to beer; and we know, on the other hand, that there is at the present time a brewery in the Territory and that that brewery is in a position to provide the Territory with its beer requirement. I wonder whether we could not have consumer goods produced in the Territory rather than imported. But we do not want to press this question in view of the fact that the hour is getting very late.

(Mr. Mufti, Syria)

On page 95 of the report, mention is made of a technical committee on the distribution of imports, whose task it is to determine the pattern of the distribution of imports. My delegation would like to know how many Africans are represented on this committee.

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

I shall not go into the entire question raised by the representative of Syria in the first part of his remarks. He did, however, specifically mention the beer industry in the Territory, and I should only like to repeat what I said at a previous meeting. There is a brewery in the Territory which is in the process of development but which is not yet able to supply all of the Territory's needs. The mere fact that the brewery has been set up, however, has had the effect of increasing the consumption of beer in the Territory -- an increase which the brewery cannot meet by itself. Thus, this has led to an increase in the figure for imports of beer. In the process of industrialization, there is always a lag between the demand and the possibility of local industries to meet that demand.

As regards the second question put by the representative of Syria, concerning the technical committee on the distribution of imports, I would say this: As is indicated in the report, the committee has eighteen members, of which two are Cameroonians. This is in line with the proportion of Cameroonian companies that are interested in imports and exports.

The PRESIDENT: I should like to ask the representative of Syria how many more questions he wishes to put to the special representative.

Mr. MUFTI (Syria) (interpretation from French): I still have three questions.

The PRESIDENT: The representative of Syria will continue his questioning of the special representative tomorrow. I now call on the United States representative.

Mr. SEARS (United States of America): My delegation does not believe that it could, by asking further questions of the special representative at this time, contribute to the welfare of the Cameroonian people. It therefore will submit no questions and asks that its name should be deleted from the list.

Mr. MUFTI (Syria) (interpretation from French): My delegation feels that the three questions it wishes to put to the special representative are of fundamental importance. We therefore feel that it will be useful, and in fact necessary, to put the three questions at the next meeting.

The PRESIDENT: Before adjourning this meeting, I should like to remind the Council that, yesterday, I stated that we were behind our time-table and suggested that two meetings on one day this week would be absolutely necessary. In these circumstances, I propose, with the approval of the Council, that we should meet twice on Friday -- at 10.30 a.m. and 2.30 p.m.

Tomorrow, the Council will continue the questioning of the special representative, and it is hoped that the questioning will be concluded at that meeting. The general debate on the Cameroons under French administration will begin on Thursday afternoon. It is hoped that during the afternoon meeting on Friday -- that being the day on which two meetings will be held -- the Council will be able not only to complete its general debate on the French Cameroons but also to hear the statements of the United Kingdom representative and the special representative on the Cameroons under British administration. I might add that I hope that it will be possible to start the general debate on the French Cameroons tomorrow afternoon.

The Drafting Committee on Ruanda-Urundi will meet tomorrow morning in Conference Room No. 5.

I should like to add the following, in reply to the statement made by the United States representative. I am always willing to call on any representative who wishes to ask questions. If certain delegations do not think it necessary to ask questions, that is their privilege; but it quite in order for any delegation to put questions.

Mr. SEARS (United States of America): I think that the President's remarks are quite in order. My delegation feels very strongly about what I might term the freedom to question at length. It so happens that some delegations have different motives for their questions. We felt that, since we did not believe that we could at this time contribute further to the welfare of the Cameroonian people by asking questions, we should delete our name from the list in order to accelerate the Council's work. But we were not referring in any way to the delegation of Syria.

The PRESIDENT: I can assure the United States representative that I did not misunderstand his motives.

The meeting rose at 5.55 p.m.