

Saturday, 30 November 1957,
at 10.50 a. m.



NEW YORK

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Chairman: Mr. Thanat KHOMAN (Thailand).

AGENDA ITEM 13

**Report of the Trusteeship Council (A/3595 and Corr.1,
A/3718 and Corr.1, A/C.4/372 and Add.1, A/C.4/
L.512 and Corr.1) (continued)**

GENERAL DEBATE (continued)

At the invitation of the Chairman, Mr. Charles Assalé, Mr. Paul Soppo Priso and Mr. Jean Ekwabi, representatives of the Groupe d'action nationale du Cameroun, Mr. Ndeh Ntumazah, representative of One Kamerun, Mr. Félix Roland Moumié, representative of the Union des populations du Cameroun, Mr. Dika Akwa, representative of the Confédération des syndicats indépendants du Cameroun, and Mr. Jacques Ngom, representative of the Confédération générale kamerunaise du travail, took places at the Committee table.

1. Mr. EL HAMID (Egypt) said that his delegation attached the utmost importance to the welfare of the Trust Territories, and particularly to those in Africa, for which it felt particular concern on account of its geographical situation. African nationalism was merely an expression of the legitimate desire for recognition of such fundamental rights as self-determination and independence, freedom from foreign interference and respect for national sovereignty. Both the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the United Nations Charter recognized those rights as basic requirements for any modern society and the Charter clearly stated that the purpose of the Trusteeship System was to lead the Trust Territories to independence. At the eleventh session that conception had been once again endorsed by General Assembly resolution 1064 (XI), which urged the Administering Authorities to estimate the period necessary for the attainment of self-government or independence by all Trust Territories.

2. Turning to the report of the Trusteeship Council (A/3595 and Corr.1), he said that his delegation felt it necessary to express its views on the right of petition, which it considered one of the most important rights accorded by the Charter to the indigenous peoples of the Trust Territories. A prompt and thorough study by the Trusteeship Council of the increasing number of petitions would strengthen the faith of the African people in the United Nations and assist them in their political evolution. It was therefore to be hoped that the Trusteeship Council would persevere in its praiseworthy efforts; those efforts would be unavailing, however, if the Administering Authorities failed to give

serious consideration to the national aspirations of the peoples under their administration.

3. With regard to the Trust Territory of Tanganyika, he would reiterate the concern his delegation had expressed at the 677th meeting regarding the right of establishment of foreign nationals and companies in the Non-Self-Governing Territories, as indicated in the Treaty setting up the European Economic Community. Such outside interests might constitute a serious handicap to the full implementation of the objectives of the Charter in those Territories. In the case of Tanganyika there were grounds for serious misgivings. Certain minorities in that Territory were objecting to the constitutional changes which should take place there and were creating a multiracial problem, no doubt with the intention of prolonging foreign domination. The Trusteeship Council's report contained indisputable evidence of such attempts to impede Tanganyika's efforts towards self-government and independence. The system of parity in the legislative and administrative machinery of Tanganyika was clearly not in conformity with the spirit of the Charter and allowed the indigenous inhabitants little opportunity of conveying their aspirations to the Administering Authority. Moreover, it granted foreign minorities a privileged position by allowing them the same proportional representation, although the European population was only 3,000 compared with an overwhelming majority of 8 million Africans. Such a system created a mandate within a mandate. Under the Charter and the Trusteeship Agreement, the transfer of powers by the Administering Authority should be made directly to the indigenous people of the Trust Territory, and not in favour of foreign minorities. The present situation raised the question whether the Administering Authority was really working to establish a non-racial régime in the Territory: if it was, the system of parity in the legislative and executive authority in the Territory should be abolished as soon as possible and the foreign minorities should place their confidence in an African Government.

4. His delegation hoped that the foreign minorities would show understanding of the national aspirations of Tanganyika and assist in the economic development of Tanganyika, without seeking to derive political advantages from the aid they gave.

5. With regard to the electoral system in Tanganyika, his delegation felt that the rate of illiteracy was no justification for the failure to introduce universal adult suffrage.

6. The problems of land tenure in Tanganyika were of considerable concern to his delegation, which agreed with the conclusions and recommendations adopted by the Trusteeship Council at its twentieth session urging the Administering Authority to maintain the greatest caution in regard to the alienation of land to non-Africans (A/3595 and Corr.1, p. 42). His delegation

shared the doubts expressed by the Indian delegation whether alienation of the kind practised in Tanganyika was in the spirit of the Trusteeship Agreement, particularly article 8.

7. With regard to Ruanda-Urundi, while the Administering Authority was to be congratulated on its achievements in the social field, his delegation could not but deplore the fact that in spite of its legal status under the Trusteeship Agreement the country was administered from outside. The legislative functions were exercised mainly by the Belgian Parliament and the executive functions were carried out through the Belgian Congo. That Administration was supported by the force of public order (*force publique*) which was composed exclusively of non-indigenous elements. Moreover, the absence of political unity in the Territory was a serious matter and the Administering Authority should do its utmost to develop a national consciousness that would lead to the unification of the two states (*pays*) of Ruanda and Urundi if the people so wished. While his delegation had noted the Administering Authority's statement that the subordination of Ruanda-Urundi to the Belgian Congo administration did not in any way prejudice the future development of relations between the Belgian Congo and the Trust Territory, it felt some concern about the matter and considered that a national administration should be set up within the Territory, particularly in view of General Assembly resolution 1064 (XI).

8. In the Cameroons under French and the Cameroons under British administration the indigenous inhabitants were rising against the division of their country and seeking unification, independence and participation in the legislative and executive functions of their country by democratic means based upon universal adult suffrage. It was surprising that the two Administering Authorities, instead of showing understanding for those legitimate desires, were imposing repressive measures "in the interest of the people", as they termed it. It might be asked how the disregard of national inspirations could be considered to be in the interests of any people. In his view, the interests of the Cameroonians would only be fully met when Article 76 of the Charter was fully implemented. The French representative had stated that few were in favour of the unification of the two Cameroons; the United Nations Visiting Mission to the Trust Territories of the Cameroons under British Administration and the Cameroons under French Administration, 1955, had reported that few requests for unification had been received and at the same time noted that unification constituted one of the basic objectives of the Union des populations du Cameroun (UPC). The report of the Trusteeship Council, however, stated that numerous petitions received in 1956 from both sides of the frontier called for unification. The obvious conclusion was that the UPC was a popular national movement in the two Territories since the numerous petitions received expressed the same objectives as did that party. In spite of their many grievances the Cameroonians had shown moderation, but instead of encouraging that moderation the Administering Authorities had been reluctant to grant an amnesty. In view of the complexity of the situation in the Cameroons the Fourth Committee would be well advised to recommend the sending of a special commission to the Territory.

9. Concerning Somaliland under Italian administration, three main points had been discussed at the nine-

teenth and twentieth sessions of the Trusteeship Council: first, the United Nations Advisory Council for the Trust Territory of Somaliland under Italian Administration; secondly, the question of continuing financial aid to the Territory after it achieved independence in 1960; thirdly, the settlement of the dispute over the frontier with Ethiopia.

10. The Egyptian delegation welcomed the constitutional changes introduced in Somaliland, whereby further executive and legislative powers had been transferred to the indigenous authorities. That evolution, however, made the work of the United Nations Advisory Council increasingly necessary. The Administering Authority had stated that new ways and means might have to be found in order to make the continuation of the constructive work of the Advisory Council possible. His delegation would appreciate a clarification of that statement. While it agreed that interference in Somali affairs should be restricted to a minimum, there was no incompatibility between that fact and the task which the United Nations Advisory Council had yet to accomplish. Until the attainment of full independence by the Territory, the Council had a constructive and useful role to play.

11. With regard to the second point, although the Territory was approaching independence, it could not possibly increase its income from existing resources sufficiently to replace Italian aid before 1960. The Mission sent to the Territory by the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development had stated in its report (T/1296) that unless financial aid was continued after 1960 there would be a drastic reduction in standards of administration, education and social services and a frustration of hopes for higher levels of living in the future. The Administering Authority had stated that it would be difficult for the Italian Government to commit itself to long-term international responsibilities in the way of aid. For that reason and in view of the recommendation on pages 86 and 87 of the Trusteeship Council's report, the Egyptian delegation thought that collective efforts should be made through United Nations machinery to provide Somaliland with the necessary financial assistance.

12. Regarding the settlement of the long-standing dispute over the frontier with Ethiopia, his delegation reserved its position until further detailed information was forthcoming from the Italian and Ethiopian delegations concerning the recent negotiations.

13. Mr. GRINBERG (Bulgaria) said that the observation of how the Administering Authorities applied the provisions of Chapter XII of the Charter to the Territories under their administration did not inspire any great optimism concerning the effectiveness of the International Trusteeship System. After nearly forty years of international mandate and trusteeship, following upon scores of years of the so-called civilizing mission, only one Trust Territory—Togoland under British administration—had obtained independence. Except for the special case of Somaliland under Italian administration only one or two of the other Trust Territories had started along the road leading to the ultimate objective of the Trusteeship System and even in those Territories the situation was fraught with uncertainty. In Ruanda-Urundi, for example, there were no signs of political development whatsoever, while in New Guinea, after over seventy years of the so-called process of civilization and when mankind was

on the verge of penetrating into other planets of the solar system, nearly one fourth of the territory had not as yet been penetrated by representatives of the Administration.

14. The report of the Trusteeship Council and the other documentation testified to the slow pace at which the Trust Territories were advancing in the economic, social and educational fields also. The data furnished by the Administering Authorities purported to indicate a certain progress, but not such as to correspond in any way with the tremendous needs of the peoples of those Territories. Progress was in fact so slow that the question arose whether the Administering Authorities were really striving to promote the development of the Territories in accordance with their obligations under Chapter XII of the Charter and whether the Territories would not have achieved immeasurably greater progress if they had remained free.

15. The slow pace of advancement was still clearer when it was compared with the rapidly developing political consciousness and maturity of the peoples in the colonies and the Trust Territories, a fact that led to tension in those Territories, sometimes causing serious outbreaks. That had happened in the Cameroons under French administration some time previously and might happen again in any of the Trust Territories.

16. The United Nations should make special efforts to stimulate the progress of the Trust Territories along the road mapped out by the Charter. It had always striven to fulfil that important task, among the most significant of its acts in that direction being General Assembly resolutions 558 (VI) and 1064 (XI). It was indeed high time that the Administering Authorities fixed definite dates for the transfer of all prerogatives of self-government and independence into the hands of the peoples of those Territories, in accordance with the provisions of Article 76 b of the Charter. The report of the Trusteeship Council showed that not one of the Administering Authorities had carried out the recommendations of the General Assembly in that respect. That fact showed a complete disregard of the rights of the United Nations in accordance with Chapter XII of the Charter and the rights of the peoples of the Trust Territories, whose development was under the protection and guarantee of the United Nations. The United Nations should reaffirm its previous decisions and should protect the rights of the peoples of the Trust Territories. His delegation was ready to support any draft resolution submitted to that effect.

17. With regard to the Cameroons under French administration, the thousands of written petitions received by the Secretariat, as also the oral statements made by the petitioners who had addressed the Committee, testified to the serious situation in that Territory. The Administering Authority, finding that its campaign of repression had not curbed the growing movement in favour of independence, had decided to make certain concessions and had accordingly enacted the new Statute setting up a Legislative Assembly and a local administrative body, both having only very limited powers. That instrument, however, had already been obsolete at the time that it had been enacted, for the people of the Cameroons had progressed beyond the stage where they could have been satisfied with half measures and had attained sufficient political maturity to be able to take full charge of their own affairs. The United Nations should do everything in

its power to help them gain their independence and as a first step should urge France to declare an amnesty in order to put an end to the bloodshed and destruction which characterized the situation prevailing in the Territory. Such an amnesty, moreover, should be unconditional and should be accompanied by the repeal of the decree dissolving certain political parties, for only then would the people of the Cameroons be able to take part in the implementation of measures designed to promote their accession to independence. Unfortunately the French representative had given no indication of the nature and scope of the projected amnesty and had said nothing about the repeal of the dissolution decree. As the question of an amnesty was a particularly important one the United Nations should adopt a resolution calling in clear terms for its promulgation.

18. No less urgent was the question of independence. The new Statute, for all its shortcomings, was proof that even the Administering Authority recognized the political maturity of the indigenous inhabitants and it had been demonstrated that all the Cameroonian political and social movements favoured full independence. Hence the petitioners' request that a special United Nations commission should be sent to examine the situation in the Territory and to make recommendations on the procedure for transition to full independence was fully justified. The French delegation had said that the fact that the Trusteeship Council would be sending a visiting mission to the Territory in 1958 obviated the need for a special commission of inquiry. The one, however, could not be considered a substitute for the other. The extremely tense situation in the Territory called for the adoption of urgent measures, as was attested by the fact that three deputies to the Legislative Assembly, known for their moderate views, had deemed it necessary to leave the Cameroons at a time when several important questions were under consideration by that body, in order to request the General Assembly to send a special commission. Furthermore, the Trusteeship Council's visiting mission was scheduled to visit other Territories as well and would not be able to devote sufficient attention to the Cameroonian problem. Hence only a special commission with its own terms of reference could successfully meet the requirements of the situation.

19. Closely related to the question of independence was that of the unification of the two Territories. Despite the passage of nearly forty years since the unjust partition of the Cameroons had taken place, it was apparent that the inhabitants of both Territories desired unification. The policy of the Administering Authorities, however, was obviously aimed at the perpetuation of partition as a means of preserving their colonial interests. The special commission should therefore take the question of reunification into account when working out its recommendations concerning the procedure by which the transition from the present status to full independence could be made. His delegation was prepared to vote in favour of any draft resolution reflecting those considerations.

20. In conclusion, he expressed his delegation's opinion that the application to the Trust Territories of the terms of the Treaty establishing the European Economic Community was of even greater significance than in the case of the Non-Self-Governing Territories and that the General Assembly should adopt a strong resolution on the subject.

21. Mr. MAKSIMOVICH (Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic) observed that the discussions in the Committee during both the present and the preceding sessions had shown that the attention of the majority of delegations was focused on the problem of the attainment of independence by the Trust Territories, in accordance with the provisions of the Charter. The time had come for the United Nations to take practical steps to settle that problem, which was of increasing concern to the peoples of the world. Colonialism had been thoroughly discredited and the peoples of the Trust Territories were developing an increasing political awareness.

22. The report of the Trusteeship Council showed that the Administering Authorities were ignoring the various General Assembly resolutions concerning the Trust Territories, notably resolution 1064 (XI), which called upon them to take measures to ensure that certain of the Trust Territories achieved self-government or independence at an early date. Belgium, for example, had not submitted any information on the implementation of that resolution in Ruanda-Urundi and so far the only statement concerning the attainment of independence by that Territory has been the remark made to the United Nations Visiting Mission to Trust Territories in East Africa, 1954, by the Governor-General of the Belgian Congo, who had said that the inhabitants of the Territory would not be able to assume the responsibilities of self-government for three or four generations (T/1141, para.122). Other Administering Authorities had likewise failed to present a concrete programme for the attainment of independence by the Territories under their administration.

23. Serious attention should be given to the dangerous trend towards the substitution of various kinds of so-called self-government or federation for the genuine independence envisaged in the Charter. France's move to integrate Togoland under French administration into the French Union through the device of granting it the status of a so-called autonomous republic was nothing more nor less than an attempt at annexation, and there was danger that the association of Ruanda-Urundi with the Belgian Congo in an administrative union might also lead to annexation. His delegation had often drawn attention to the harmful effect of such unions, which made the political advancement of the Trust Territories dependent on that of the colonies. Thus the United Kingdom had linked the destiny of the Cameroons under British administration to that of Nigeria and by joining the Northern Cameroons to that colony had still further fragmented the already divided Trust Territory and retarded its development. It was likewise apparent that Australia intended to annex New Guinea, which was associated in an administrative union with the colony of Papua.

24. At the present time, when the Trust Territories should be on the threshold of independence, the development of political activity, the establishment of truly representative organs of self-government and the introduction of universal suffrage were of the utmost importance. Yet it was evident from the report of the Trusteeship Council and the statements made by the petitioners that the Administering Authorities were not promoting the political advancement of the Trust Territories and that some of them were actually doing their best to prevent it.

25. A striking example was that of the Cameroons

under French administration, where the Administering Authority had responded to the expression of the people's desire for independence by initiating a campaign of repression and outlawing several of the political parties. Although the Secretariat had not been able to reproduce more than a small percentage of the thousands of petitions received from that Territory, those few bore eloquent testimony to the repressive policies of the Administering Authority under which arrests, illegal searches, the confiscation of property, beatings and deportation were the order of the day. Such measures having proved futile, since the entire Territory was united in its desire for independence, the Administering Authority had finally deemed it expedient to adopt two measures which at first glance might seem to indicate a willingness to promote the attainment of independence by the Territory: namely, the introduction of the new Statute and the holding of new elections for the Territorial Assembly. Closer consideration of both measures, however, showed that the Statute did not provide for the granting of independence to the Cameroons and was actually calculated to keep the Territory subject to the Administering Authority indefinitely. France's failure to set a target date for the attainment of independence was further evidence of that intention. As for the elections, they had been conducted in an atmosphere of military repression and more than half the registered voters had abstained in protest. The groundlessness of the Administering Authorities' claim that the inhabitants of the Trust Territories had not yet attained a sufficient degree of advancement to be able to manage their own affairs was evident from the political maturity and understanding displayed by the petitioners from both Togoland and the Cameroons, not to mention the fact that the Cameroons had been an independent country until late in the nineteenth century.

26. Political advancement in Ruanda-Urundi was extremely slow. The indigenous inhabitants had no legislative or executive organs of their own, they were inadequately represented in the Council of the Vice-Government-General and were not represented at all at the higher levels of the Administration, with the result that they were deprived of the opportunity to gain political experience. Belgium's refusal to introduce broad democratic reforms which would hasten their political advancement could be interpreted only as proof that it wanted at all costs to maintain its hold over the Territory.

27. In Tanganyika, too, political advancement was very slow. The composition of the existing administrative organs was based on the principle of racial inequality, universal suffrage had yet to be introduced and the indigenous inhabitants were excluded from occupying responsible posts in the Administration.

28. The refusal of the Administering Authorities to allow the Trust Territories to attain independence was promoted by their desire to exploit their human and material resources. They wished to maintain the Trust Territories as sources of agricultural and other raw materials and for that reason were not taking steps to develop sound, diversified economies for the Territories but were concentrating on those products which brought a large financial return for themselves. The report of the Trusteeship Council showed that the economy of Ruanda-Urundi, for example, was based on the production of coffee, the sale of which was monopolized by foreigners. The preponderance of foreign

interests in the economy of the Cameroons was exemplified by the fact that 50 per cent of the aluminium industry was in the hands of the French while the remaining 50 per cent was divided between the United States, the Federal Republic of Germany, Belgium and Switzerland. In the case of the newly discovered oil deposits in the Cameroons under French administration 50 per cent of the profits accrued to the French company which had been formed to exploit them, 20 per cent to the French Government and 30 per cent to the Administration. Tanganyika was another Territory in which there were no important industries. The economy of Western Samoa was limited to a few products the export of which brought large profits to foreign companies. The Territory of Nauru was to all intents and purposes administered by the British Phosphate Commissioners. In the Territory of New Guinea the continuing practice of renting lands to new colonists for periods of ninety-nine years was a concealed form of land alienation. The one-sided economic development of the Trust Territories, their economic subordination to foreign interests and the wholly inadequate participation of the indigenous inhabitants in their economic life prevented their becoming economically independent and thereby constituted an obstacle to their accession to political independence. In that connexion it should be observed that the application to some of the Trust Territories of the provisions of the Treaty establishing the European Economic Community was at variance with the terms of the Charter and would serve to place those Territories at a still greater disadvantage.

29. The time had come when the final objective of the Trusteeship System, namely, the accession of the Trust Territories to independence, should be brought about. To that end the Administering Authorities should take immediate steps to establish representative legislative and administrative bodies in the Trust Territories, to introduce universal suffrage and to promote their full economic and cultural development.

30. Mr. AMEGBE (Ghana) said that in considering the question of the Trust Territories the Fourth Committee should be guided by the desire to see that the aims of the International Trusteeship System were fulfilled so as to take into account the wishes and aspirations of the inhabitants of the Territories. It was the Committee's duty to judge dispassionately whether the Administering Authorities were scrupulously complying with their obligations under the Charter.

31. The delegation of Ghana would welcome a thorough and impartial inquiry into the serious charges which the petitioners from the Cameroons had brought to the Committee's attention. They asserted that their demand for unification and political independence had brought upon them the ire of the Administering Authorities, that many of the leaders of the nationalist movement in the Cameroons had been imprisoned, deported or exiled and that there was no freedom of Press, assembly or speech. Those were grave charges and it was the Committee's responsibility to see that the facts of the case were established beyond any reasonable doubt. The population of the two Trust Territories of the Cameroons together amounted to some 5 million people and the Administering Authorities that were responsible for that huge number of people should exercise the greatest care and patience. The Committee had been told, however, that a few days before the

last election in the Cameroons under British administration there had been a wave of arrests of opposition party leaders, that party offices had been searched, that 500 police had been drafted from Nigeria as reinforcements and that there had been no freedom for the unificationists to put the final touches to their campaign. Opposition candidates had in fact been surrounded by an atmosphere of intimidation and terrorism. It was in that climate that the election had been held.

32. Sir Andrew COHEN (United Kingdom), speaking on a point of order, said he would be glad to know on what evidence the representative of Ghana based his statements.

33. Mr. AMEGBE (Ghana) said that it was precisely in order to ascertain the real facts that he was supporting the proposal to send a special commission to the Territory.

34. Continuing his statement, he said that in the circumstances he had described it was surprising that the unificationists had been able to obtain about 2,000 votes, as the United Kingdom representative had himself informed the Committee at its 721st meeting. The United Kingdom representative had explained away the allegations of murder and arson and had spoken of police investigation of those crimes but had not stated what the result of the investigation had been.

35. In the Cameroons under French administration the situation, according to the petitioners, was still worse. Before the last election UPC leaders and supporters of the unification movement had been rounded up and deported a few days before the arrival in the Territory of the 1955 Visiting Mission, thereby depriving the UPC leaders of the opportunity of presenting their version of the situation to the Mission. Some party members had been arrested at Douala and, when leaders of the party had approached the Government to find out the reason, the police had opened fire on them, killing some of them and wounding others. Some thirteen persons who had fled to the Cameroons under British administration had been deported by the British authorities and no one knew where they were. The Fourth Committee could not close its eyes to such a state of affairs. General Assembly resolution 1067 (XI) expressed the hope that the Administering Authority would take all necessary measures to restore political activity to normal conditions, but the terms of that resolution had not been respected. His delegation felt that a realistic and positive approach should be made to the situation in the Cameroons and it therefore favoured the suggestion that a United Nations commission with full powers should be dispatched to the Territory. His own experience in a former Non-Self-Governing Territory convinced him that the case of the petitioners could not and should not be summarily dismissed and that an inquiry should be made under impartial international auspices.

36. The oft-expressed wishes of the Cameroonians for unification and independence should be given the full weight due to them. Again and again political groups in the Cameroons under British administration and the Cameroons under French administration had informed the Trusteeship Council and its Visiting Missions of their desire for the reunification of their homeland. That was a natural desire, as anyone who had seen an international boundary cutting across ethnic groups would readily understand. The boundaries of many

colonies and territories in Africa had been drawn with too little attention to the ethnic homogeneity of peoples. It was a noble thing to attempt to restore the peoples' ethnic and spiritual unity and the Committee should without hesitation affirm that principle. His delegation was not unaware of the complexity of the problem and the administrative difficulties involved in working out the many technical details of reuniting the two parts of a Territory administered by two Powers whose philosophy, policy and approach to colonial administration were often very different. It fully endorsed the view of the 1955 Visiting Mission that any precipitous decision regarding the matter should be avoided (T/1226, para. 122), but the right of a people to live in a unified homeland should be affirmed. Failure to meet the problem would bequeath thorny legacies of territorial irredentism to many of the newly emerging States of Africa. In short, the question was whether or not the Committee upheld the principle of unification where a majority of the people clearly desired it. If the Committee were satisfied that the overwhelming majority of the people of both Cameroons desired unification it should unequivocally reaffirm that principle and it would then be incumbent upon the two Administering Authorities to initiate steps to bring it about. If the Committee endorsed the idea of unification France and the United Kingdom could assure the peoples of the Cameroons, in a joint declaration, of their intention, under the terms of Article 73 d of the Charter, of co-operating with others in efforts to unify their country.

37. He hoped that the steps he had outlined, which were also largely the demands of the petitioners, would pave the way for eventual self-government and independence of the Cameroons. The first essential was that the political, economic, social and educational advancement of the people, as also their just treatment and protection against abuses, must be ensured. Secondly, the legitimate aspirations of the people of both Cameroons towards the unification of their homeland and the obliteration of the frontiers that separated them should be respected. Above all, the peoples of the two Trust Territories should be assured that they had a reasonable hope of living in the near future in an independent and unified Cameroons. The task was a complex one but it was a challenge which the Committee could not safely ignore. There was still time to effect an orderly transfer of power to the people of Cameroons and it was the task and the responsibility of the Fourth Committee to assist in that great undertaking.

38. Finally, he asked that a general amnesty should be granted to the peoples of the two Trust Territories.

39. Mr. PRADO (Ecuador), presenting a joint draft resolution (A/C.4/L.512 and Corr.1) on behalf of the sponsors, said that the text had been carefully drafted and in the sponsors' opinion reflected the consensus of the Committee. He commended the draft resolution to the Committee's consideration.

The meeting rose at 12.25 p.m.