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25/IV	Dr. Kirchhoff		BF	"	"						
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T/1441

UNITED NATIONS

United Nations Visiting Mission to Trust Territories in West Africa, 1958

REPORT ON THE CAMEROONS UNDER FRENCH ADMINISTRATION

TOGETHER WITH RELATED DOCUMENTS

TRUSTEESHIP COUNCIL

OFFICIAL RECORDS: TWENTY-THIRD SESSION

(30 January — 20 March 1959)

SUPPLEMENT No. 3

NEW YORK, 1959

UNITED NATIONS

United Nations Visiting Mission to Trust Territories in West Africa, 1958

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NOTE

Symbols of United Nations documents are composed of capital letters combined with figures. Mention of such a symbol indicates a reference to a United Nations document.

T/1441

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REPORT OF THE UNITED NATIONS VISITING MISSION TO TRUST TERRITORIES IN WEST AFRICA, 1958, ON THE CAMEROONS UNDER FRENCH ADMINISTRATION (T/1427 AND T/1434*)

LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL DATED 23 JANUARY 1959 FROM THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE VISITING MISSION ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

We have the honour, in accordance with Trusteeship Council resolution 1907 (XXII) of 28 July 1958, to transmit herewith the report of the United Nations Visiting Mission to Trust Territories in West Africa, 1958, on the Cameroons under French administration.

In order to provide the Administering Authority with additional time to prepare its observations on the report, the Mission is making available to it informally today a number of copies of the final draft. It would be grateful if you would officially transmit the report in document form at the earliest possible date, in accordance with rule 99 of the rules of procedure of the Trusteeship Council, to the Administering Authority and each other member of the Council, and if you would release it for general distribution at a date to be determined by you in consultation with the Administering Authority.

We have pleasure in informing you that the report as present submitted was unanimously adopted by the members of the Visiting Mission.

We would not wish to close this letter without expressing to you our appreciation for the splendid way in which the Principal Secretary, Mr. R. T. Miller, and the other members of the staff appointed by you, discharged their arduous duties. Their detailed knowledge of the problems of the territories was invaluable and was generously made available at all times. The Mission is greatly indebted to them for their unfailing help and assistance.

(Signed) Benjamin GERIG (United States of America)
Chairman of the Visiting Mission
Georges SALOMON (Haiti)
Rikhi JAIPAL (India)
Gray THORP (New Zealand)

FOREWORD

The present Visiting Mission is the fourth which the Trusteeship Council has sent to the Trust Territories of the Cameroons under British administration and the Cameroons under French administration in accordance with the provisions of the United Nations Charter, the Trusteeship Agreements and the rules of procedure of the Council.

At its 888th meeting, on 26 March 1958, the Trusteeship Council decided to dispatch a visiting mission to Trust Territories in West Africa; it also decided that the Mission should be composed of persons nominated by Haiti, India, New Zealand and the United States of America. At its 924th meeting, on 18 July 1958, it approved the nominations of Mr. Georges Salomon (Haiti), Mr. Rikhi Jaipal (India), Mr. Gray Thorp (New Zealand) and Mr. Benjamin Gerig (United States of America)

* Document T/1434 referred exclusively to annex II below; see footnote *d* to that annex.

as members of the Mission. At the same meeting Mr. Gerig was elected Chairman of the Mission.

The terms of reference of the Mission were considered by the Council at its 932nd meeting, on 28 July 1958. The Council adopted resolution 1907 (XXII) whereby, having decided that the Mission should visit the Cameroons under British administration and the Cameroons under French administration, and having also taken note of the memorandum by the Government of the United Kingdom concerning the future of the former Territory,[1] it directed the Mission to investigate and report as fully as possible on the steps taken in the two Trust Territories towards the realization of the objectives set forth in Article 76 *b* of the Charter, taking into account the terms of General Assembly resolution 321 (IV) of 15 November 1949 and other relevant Assembly resolutions; to give attention, as might be appropriate in the light of discussions in the Trusteeship Council and the General Assembly, and of resolutions adopted by them, to issues raised in connexion with the annual reports on the administration of the two Trust Territories concerned, in petitions received by the Trusteeship Council relating to the Territories, in the reports of the previous periodic visiting missions to the Territories and in the observations of the Administering Authorities on those reports; and to receive petitions, without prejudice to its acting in accordance with the rules of procedure of the Council, and to investigate on the spot, after consultation with the local representative of the Administering Authority concerned, such of the petitions received as, in its opinion, warranted special investigation. In the same resolution, the Council also requested the Mission to submit to the Council as soon as practicable a report on each of the Territories visited containing its findings, with such observations, conclusions and recommendations as it might wish to make. In addition, it requested the Mission to include in its report on the Cameroons under British administration its views on the method of consultation which should be adopted when the time came for the people of that Territory to express their wishes concerning their future. At its 941st meeting, on 7 November 1958, while the Mission was in the Cameroons under British administration, the Council adopted resolution 1924 (S-IX) in which, having taken note of a statement which had been made to it by the representative of France, it further requested the Mission to set forth its views on the procedure for organizing the consultation which would enable the people of the Cameroons under French administration to express, at the appropriate time, their wishes concerning their future and concerning the termination of trusteeship upon the attainment of full national independence in 1960.

The Mission, which was accompanied by six members of the Secretariat,[2] departed from New York during October 1958. On 25 October 1958 it had preliminary discussions concerning the Territory with the Minister for Overseas France, Mr. Bernard Cornut-Gentille, the Director of Political Affairs of the Ministry for Overseas France, Mr. Léon Pignon, and other officials in Paris. After visiting the Cameroons under British administration, the Mission arrived in the Cameroons under French administration on 14 November 1958 to begin its visit, which lasted approximately three weeks. On 6 December, it left the Territory for Paris where it had a last interview with the officials of the Ministry of Overseas France together with the Prime Minister of the Cameroons and the High Commissioner of the French Republic in the Cameroons. From Paris, the Mission returned to United Nations Headquarters by way of London to draft the present report, which was unanimously approved by it on 23 January 1959 and is hereby submitted to the Trusteeship Council in accordance with its terms of reference.

The Mission regrets that space does not allow it to thank individually all those responsible for the warm reception and cordial co-operation which it received from all sectors of the population, public authorities and private persons alike, with whom it came in contact. It wishes, however, to express its particular gratitude to Mr. Xavier Torre, High Commissioner of the French Republic in the Cameroons, and Mr. Georges Rigal, Deputy High Commissioner; Mr. Ahmadou Ahidjo, Prime Minister of the Cameroons, and the members of the Cameroons Government; and Mr. Daniel Kémajou, President of the Legislative Assembly, and the members of the Assembly. The Mission wishes also to extend its thanks to Mr. Xavier Deniau, Mr. Maurice Pinon, Mr. Paul Bréchignac, Mr. Jean Bétayenné and Mr. Maurice Odent who accompanied the Mission during its visit, the first three officers as the representatives of the High Commissioner, and the others as the representatives of the Cameroons Government. It expresses thanks also to Captain Marcel Beaumont and the crew of the aircraft in which the Mission travelled some thousands of miles and to the officials and drivers responsible for its journeys by road, without whose willing and efficient help it could not have travelled as widely as it did in the Territory.

Because of the special functions of the Mission in regard to the future of the Territory, it devoted most of its time to hearing the views of the people and their representatives on this subject. The Mission did not limit such interviews to those of a formal character scheduled on its programme, but adopted as far as it could the practice of halting, even if briefly, to meet and hear groups of people who had assembled along the roads and in other places in the obvious desire to express their views. Moreover, it had many useful informal contacts with political leaders and other representative persons. At the outset of the Mission's visit, the High Commissioner's office had announced that the population was completely free to request hearings by the Visiting Mission or to submit petitions to it in an individual capacity or on behalf of legally constituted organizations. In general, the Mission is satisfied that all those who wished to contact it were free to do so and to express to it their views. Only in Douala were there some difficulties in this regard; these difficulties are discussed in the descriptive section of the Mission's report (see annex I).

At a time when decisions of profound importance to the future of the Trust Territory are impending, the Visiting Mission considers it appropriate to pay a warm tribute to those many hundreds of men and women from countries far from the Cameroons, and especially from France, other French-speaking countries, and from the United States of America, who at present or in past years have given their devotion, effort and skill to helping the Cameroonian people develop the political institutions and the economic, social and educationa facilities which constitute the foundation of their coming independence. These are the administrators, doctors, teachers, agricultural officers and experts in many other professions and skills who, whether in the service of government, private enterprise or missionary societies, have over the years established orderly administration, begun a transformation of the economy and laid down the essential medical, educational and other services. They have passed on to the people in their care not only the benefits of their knowledge, but also the knowledge itself: to the people of the Cameroons they have left a priceless heritage.

[1] *Official Records of the Trusteeship Council, Twenty-second Session, Annexes*, agenda item 6, *document* T/1393.

[2] Mr. R. T. Miller, Principal Secretary; Mr. F. T. Liu and Mr. R. W. Wathen, Assistant Secretaries; Mr. J. Delattre, Interpreter; Mr. T. Trisciuzzi, Administrative Officer; and Miss C. E. Charpentier, Stenographer.

CHAPTER I

PROGRESS OF THE TERRITORY TOWARDS THE OBJECTIVES OF TRUSTEESHIP

A. General

Introduction

1. The second largest of the Trust Territories in size and the third largest in population, the Cameroons under French administration has been able to look forward in the past several months to the prospect of becoming the first to emerge from the Trusteeship System as an independent State in its own right. Its elected legislature, and its Government constituted with two exceptions from among the members of the legislature, have already enjoyed, especially since 1 January 1959, a very large measure of self-government, and they have decided with the agreement of the Administering Authority that on the first day of 1960 their country will attain full national independence. The date was chosen by themselves and it now remains only for the General Assembly, in agreement with the Administering Authority, to terminate the Trusteeship Agreement from that date.

2. Those were the predominant circumstances in which the Visiting Mission carried out its visit to the Cameroons, and which have necessarily governed the form and content of this report. The Mission decided that it should devote particular attention to the evolution of the institutions of the future independent State; to the political conditions under which that evolution has taken place; and to the other considerations which, in its opinion, the Trusteeship Council and the General Assembly would wish to take into account in fulfilling their remaining responsibilities. It decided to devote relatively less attention to economic and social progress and problems, since both the political circumstances of the Territory and the additional terms of reference (see Foreword) given to the Mission indicated that its peoples have been judged sufficiently advanced to be able fully to govern themselves in 1960.

The Territory and its administration

3. Situated in the heart of Africa, the Cameroons under French administration is shaped roughly like a right-angled triangle with an area of about 432,000 square kilometres.[3] The base of the triangle, which is 700 kilometres[4] long, follows the second parallel north between the sea and the Sangha River and the apex is at Lake Chad, on the thirteenth parallel north. The Territory is bounded to the south-west by the Atlantic Ocean, to the west by the Cameroons under British administration and Nigeria, to the north by Lake Chad, to the east by the autonomous republics of Chad and Central Africa, and to the south by the autonomous republics of Congo and Gabon and by the Territory of Spanish Guinea.

4. There are four natural regions. The southern region, extending westward from the sea to the Middle Congo Basin between the southern border and the Sanaga River, consists of a coastal plain of an average width of 80 kilometres and a densely forested plateau of an average altitude of 300 metres[5] in the interior. The central region, extending from the Sanaga in the south to the Bénoué in the north, consists of the Adamaoua high plateau which ranges in altitude from 800 metres in the south to 1,500 metres in the north. This is a transitional area in which the forest gives place to the savannah. Across the Bénoué lies the northern region, a vast savannah plain which falls away imperceptibly towards the Chad. The western part of the Territory is a mountainous area with some peaks over 2,000 metres.

5. The population of the Cameroons is a little over 3 million, including 16,382 Europeans. The indigenous population is a mosaic of races with a wide variety of languages and customs. In the south, the inhabitants

[3] 1 square kilometre = 0.386 square miles.

[4] 1 kilometre = 0.624 miles.

[5] 1 metre = 3.281 ft.

are mostly Bantu-speaking peoples, the main groups being the Béti in the Yaoundé area, the Bassa in the Sanaga-Maritime,[6] the Pahouin in the Ntem and Nyong area, and the Douala in the Lower Wouri. The Bamiléke and the Bamoun, who are classified as semi-Bantu, form the great majority of the population in the west of the Territory. The centre and the north are peopled chiefly by Foulbé (Fulani), a people of Hamitic origin, and Kirdi, a people of Sudanese origin.

6. At the time of the Mission's visit the Territory's political structure and its relations with the Administering Authority were governed by decree No. 57-501 of 16 April 1957 containing the Statute of the Cameroons. In a subsequent chapter, the Mission will discuss the circumstances in which the Statute was drafted and adopted and the political developments that followed its adoption, one of the consequences of which was the entry into force on 1 January 1959 of a new Statute for the Territory.

7. The Statute of 16 April 1957 defined the Cameroons as a "Trust State" whose nationals were designated Cameroons citizens. Cameroons citizens enjoyed the civil, civic and social rights of French citizens and the latter, by reciprocity, enjoyed the rights attaching to the status of Cameroons citizens.

8. The Statute provided for a division of responsibility between the French and Cameroons authorities. The enactment of legislation and regulations relating to the following matters, which were enumerated exhaustively, was within the competence of the central organs of the French Republic: the system of public liberties; external affairs and defence; the currency and foreign exchange systems, the organization and management of credit, any financial assistance to be granted, foreign trade, the customs system, the general regulation of customs matters and the laws and regulations relating to mineral resources; the curricula and examinations in public institutions of secondary and higher education; the Penal Code, administrative disputes, the legislation and regulations relating to commerce, and criminal procedure; the public services of the French Republic; and the matters reserved in article 11 of the Statute, namely, the rules governing persons subject to the ordinary civil law of France, the organization of jurisdictions applying French law and of the administrative courts.

9. The High Commissioner, who is the representative of the French Republic in the Cameroons and the depository of the powers of the Republic, was responsible under the Statute for the defence and external security of the Territory, the maintenance of public order, and the enforcement of laws and decrees enacted by central organs of the French Republic. Article 4 of the Statute provided that the Cameroons would continue to participate, through its representatives, in the functioning of the central organs of the French Republic. This provision ceased to apply from the end of October 1958.[7]

10. The legislative power in respect of matters not reserved to the central organs of the French Republic was vested by the Statute in a Cameroons Legislative Assembly elected by direct and secret universal suffrage. A Cameroons Government, responsible to the Legislative Assembly, ensured the enforcement of Cameroons legislation and the organization and direction of the Cameroons public services. The Government consisted of a Prime Minister and of ministers designated by him. The Prime Minister was designated by the High Commissioner and confirmed in office by the Legislative Assembly.

11. However, in order to enable the French Administration to discharge its obligations under the United Nations Charter and Trusteeship Agreement, it was provided that the High Commissioner should possess reserve powers in regard to the operation of the Cameroons institutions. He or his legal deputy presided over the Cameroons Council of Ministers. He was authorized to request the Assembly and the Cameroons Government, respectively, to reconsider the legislation and regulations which they adopted. If any such legislation or regulation conflicted with the provisions of the Statute or with international conventions or impeded the discharge of trusteeship obligations, it could be annulled by decree of the French Government. Lastly, the Cameroons Legislative Assembly was empowered to request by resolution the amendment of the Statute.

12. At the local level the Cameroons is now divided into twenty-one regions, each of which is administered by a chief regional officer. The largest regions are divided into subdivisions, each of which is under the authority of a chief subdivisional officer. The chief regional and subdivisional officers are appointed by the High Commissioner, with the approval of the Prime Minister. The Statute of 16 April 1957 provided that the administrative regions could be grouped into provinces which were legal entities and financially autonomous. This provision has, however, never been applied.

13. In order to encourage the inhabitants to participate in the management of local affairs, a complex system of communes—which are legal entities and enjoy a measure of financial autonomy—has been established in part of the Territory. It consists at present of eight *communes de plein exercice*, five urban mixed communes and fifty-eight rural mixed communes. The *communes de plein exercice* (Douala, Yaoundé, Nkongsamba, Ebolowa, Edéa, Kribi, Mbalmayo and Sangmélima) have a municipal council elected by universal suffrage and a mayor elected by that council. The urban mixed communes are administered by an administrator-mayor assisted either by an elected municipal council (Bafang, Bafoussam and Eséka) or an appointed municipal commission (Garoua and Ngaoundéré). Lastly, the rural mixed communes, thirty-seven of which are constituted on the basis of a subdivision, thirteen on the basis of an administrative post and eight on the basis of a traditional native community, are administered by an administrator-mayor assisted by a municipal council elected according to a procedure which varies from region to region. The council is elected by the whole electorale in the communes of Nyong-et-Sanaga, Ntem'and Dja-et-Lobo. In the communes of Bamiléké two-thirds of the members of the council are elected by the whole electorale, with the exception of the customary chiefs, and the remaining third are customary chiefs elected by their peers. In all the other regions, four-fifths of the members of the council are elected by the whole electorate and one-fifth are paramount chiefs elected by their peers. The Ministry of the Interior of the Cameroons Government is now responsible for all nominations to the municipalities.

14. Side by side with the organization which has just been described, the institution of the traditional chiefdoms has been maintained and regulated. Under the present regulations laid down by order of 4 February 1933, chiefs are divided into first class chiefs (lamidos, sultans and paramount chiefs), second class chiefs (chiefs of groups of villages, cantonal chiefs and *laouanes*) and third class chiefs (village chiefs and *chefs de quartier*). The chiefs are chosen according to custom by the notables and heads of family from among members of families which hereditarily exercise authority. They are essentially the representatives of their indigenous communities and, as such, take part in local administration, particularly as judges of customary courts, census agents, tax collectors and, in general, as intermediaries between the chiefs of the administrative *circonscriptions* and the inhabitants. The first and second class chiefs receive annual remuneration from the Administration calculated on the basis of the number of persons under their authority and an indemnity in respect of the specific duties and representational functions which they perform. The third class chiefs, who collect certain taxes, receive a proportion of the taxes they collect. Several attempts have been made in the past to revise the regulations concerning chiefs, but no decision has been taken in the matter. It is interesting to note, in this connexion, that article 20 of the new Statute which came into force on 1 January 1959 provided that "the traditional or customary chiefdoms as they now exist in the Cameroons shall be guaranteed".

15. As the Mission has stated earlier, it has felt disposed to devote less attention than would previously have been necessary to various aspects of the administration and the economic and social life of the Territory. It was nevertheless able to examine in some detail three problems which are of particular importance in view of the fact that the Territory will shortly attain independence. These are the Cameroonization of the administrative services, the economic and social development plan and the budgetary problem. The Mission has found it convenient to deal with these matters under the headings immediately following.

Development of the public service

16. At a time when the Cameroons is on the point of achieving independence, it is hardly necessary to point out how important it is that the public service should progressively be staffed by Cameroonians. Progress in this field was limited up to 1957, but has been appreciably speeded up as a result of the reorganization of the public service of the Cameroons which was carried out after the entry into force of the Statute of 16 April 1957. Before this new phase opened in the political life in the Territory, its system of administration had been parallel in all essential respects with that of the French Overseas Territories proper, and its destiny as a self-governing State was not foreshadowed by measures designed to endow it with a public service of its own.

17. The civil service, which was entirely under the authority of the High Commissioner of the French Republic, was divided into three grades; these were, in descending order of importance, the general cadres, the superior cadres and the local cadres.

18. While the two last-mentioned grades were local in character, the general cadres were common to all the territories coming under the Ministry of Overseas France and officials in that grade could be transferred from one territory to another. Recrutment of officials is by competitive examination from among the candidates who hold the requisite diplomas i.e., the primary school-leaving certificate in the case of the local cadres, the *baccalauréat* and the elementary school-leaving certificate in the case of superior cadres A and B respectively, and for officials of the general cadres a university degree or the diploma of the Ecole nationale de la France d'outre-mer.

19. Up to 1956 Cameroonians held all the posts staffed from the local cadres and most of the posts staffed from the superior cadres, but very few of the posts staffed from the general cadres. This state of affairs was due not only to the lack of Cameroonians possessing the necessary qualifications, a matter to which attention has frequently been drawn, but also to the way in which the Administration was organized and more especially to its method of recruiting personnel. Owing to the fact that officials belonging to the general cadres could be transferred from one territory to another, some Cameroonians who possessed the necessary qualifications but preferred to remain in their native country were reluctant to enter the public service. More important than this, however, was the method of recruitment of personnel for that service. In the case of vacancies in administrative posts which were filled by competitive examinations open to both French and Africans on the same terms, the Africans were necessarily at a disadvantage. In particular, few Africans managed to gain admission to the Ecole nationale de la France d'outre-mer, candidates for which had to be under twenty-five years of age and had to pass a difficult entrance examination. In fact, from 1951 to 1955 only eight African students, not merely from the Cameroons but from all the French Overseas Territories, succeeded in gaining admission to this school.

[6] For the sake of simplicity the term "Sanaga-Maritime" is used to designate the former administrative region of that name, although the region has, since the promulgation of Act No. 58-75 of 30 June 1958, been divided into two administrative regions: Sanaga-Maritime and Nyong-et-Kellé, formerly the Eséka Subdivision.

[7] A French Government ordinance of 17 October 1958 provided that the members of the National Assembly and the Council of the Republic representing the Cameroons could not continue to sit after the renewal of those assemblies without the consent of their Government. The Cameroons Government has informed the President of the French Council of its position in the matter, namely, that such representation is inadvisable in the present circumstances.

20. In 1956, when the *loi-cadre* was being debated in the French National Assembly, Mr. Gaston Defferre, the then Minister for Overseas France, referred to the drawbacks of this system and outlined some improvements which he proposed to introduce.[8] The changes he proposed were embodied in several decrees issued after the *loi-cadre* had been adopted, including that of 16 April 1957 setting forth the Statute of the Cameroons.

21. The Statute provided for the complete reorganization of the public service in the Territory. Although some branches of that service continued to come under the High Commissioner, the remainder were thenceforward to be the responsibility of the Cameroonian Government. The branches of the service for which the French Republic was to be responsible were restricted to those set out in article 50 of the Statute. They consisted of the High Commissioner of the French Republic and his personal secretariat, the district administrative officers (*Chefs de circonscriptions administratives*) and their deputies, the services of the courts applying French law, of the criminal courts and of the judicial police, the administrative courts, the services of safety (*sûreté*) and security, the inspectorate of labour and social legislation, in its advisory capacity, the financial supervision of the expenditures of the French Republic, aviation services of general interest, services concerned with foreign affairs, maritime security services and the services concerned with the registration of shipping and the harbour-masters' departments, and existing or future stations in the general radio-electric network, the submarine cable system and the broadcasting service. It is important to note that as from 1 January 1959, the date on which the new Statute came into force, all the above services, with the exception of the staff of the High Commission and of departments dealing with monetary policy, external affairs and defence, have also been placed under the authority of the Cameroons Government.

22. The Statute of 16 April 1957 laid down that the regulations governing the public service of the Cameroons and the scale of salaries in that service were to be determined by the Legislative Assembly. The Assembly passed two laws on the subject: Act No. 57-87 of 20 December 1957, which set up a new salary scale for Cameroonian public servants, and Act No. 58-84 of 22 July 1958, which set out the general regulations governing such public servants. Generally speaking, the purpose of these two Acts is to provide Cameroonian civil servants with a recruitment system and pay, promotion and working conditions comparable to those enjoyed by French officials. For example, under the Act of 22 July 1958 civil servants are divided into five categories: categories A and B are equivalent to the former general cadres, categories C and D to the former superior cadres A and B, and category E to the local cadres. The Act also provides for the establishment of a Higher Council for the Public Service (Conseil supérieur de la fonction publique) on which the Government and the civil servants will be equally represented.

23. The Cameroonization of the public service in the Cameroons is within the exclusive competence of the Cameroons Government. The Prime Minister, Mr. Ahidjo, has on many occasions shown how important he considers this problem to be. For example, in a speech which he made in the Legislative Assembly on 18 October, he said:

"One of the main tasks of the Government was to ensure that Cameroonians were associated more and more closely with the administration of public affairs. The fact that we intend to take gradual steps to replace French officials by Cameroonian officials does not imply any failure on our part to recognize the services rendered to our country by the former.

"It was our duty to ensure that the handing over took place as smoothly as possible. We now have figures to show what has been achieved in the last two years. At the end of 1955, there were 160 officials (*administrateurs*) of the Civil Service of Overseas France employed in the Territory; there are now only 120. The number of assistant officials (*attachés*) of the French Overseas Service was then 144 and is now only 126. On the other hand, there are at present six Cameroonians who are deputy chief regional officers, nine who are chief subdivisional officers, twenty-five who are deputy chief subdivisional officers and nine who are district administrative officers. Furthermore, thirty-five courts of first degree are presided over by our fellow-countrymen. There are Cameroonians who are deputy heads of departments and in all posts of a technical nature, such as that of head of a subdivision of the Public Works Department or chief of educational or health teams, our fellow-countrymen are learning how to deal with difficult tasks and are already rendering distinguished service.

"In order to encourage this trend and to give it a sound basis, the main task of the Government was to frame regulations for the Cameroons Public Service. It would obviously have been most unfortunate if our officials had only been able to find attractive openings in the French service.

"You recently passed the law on the Cameroons Public Service, which provides among other things for the establishment of a Higher Council for the Public Service on which the Government and the civil servants will be equally represented.

"We immediately began to prepare the decrees which would give effect to this measure. One of the most interesting of these is indoubtedly the decree instituting a class of public servant for which an educational level higher than that of the *baccalauréat* is required. This will enable the best men we have to play the part to which they would normally be entitled in the affairs of our country.

"Moreover, it has been the particular concern of the Government to offer better prospects to officials already in the service by increasing the number of professional examinations leading to executive posts and by revising the regulations governing certain specialized services.

"For example, we are at present considering the establishment of a Treasury cadre which will offer better prospects to our specialized officials. Naturally, all this is closely bound up with the development of our institutions and with the training of our best people.

"Our legislation will have to be adapted to the new conditions arising from the transfer of powers and from the return home of our students. The Government will keep this in mind and it welcomes the fact that a large number of our young people have turned towards the most varied forms of education; in fact, one young man has just passed into the Ecole polytechnique. All this will enable them to take part in every branch of the nation's activities and to exert a good influence on economic and social development."

24. The representatives of the High Commissioner and the Cameroons Government told the Mission about the steps which have already been taken to expedite the Cameroonization of the cadres. Apprenticeship schools and centres, such as the agricultural training centres at Ebolowa and Maroua, the Douala-Bassa apprenticeship centre of the state railway, the nursing school at Ayos and the technical forestry school at Mbalmayo provide specialized training for the personnel of the various departments and thus facilitate their promotion to higher grades. Fellowships are also granted in the most deserving cases, enabling the holders to complete their vocational training in France or abroad.

25. Furthermore, a scheme was set up in 1956 whereby French officials in each department will gradually be replaced by Cameroonian scholarship-holders who have completed their studies in France. According to this scheme, ninety-five scholarship-holders were to return to the Cameroons in 1956, seventy-one in 1957, forty-two in 1958, fifty-one in 1959, fourteen in 1960 and twenty-seven in 1961. The Mission was informed that this scheme is operating normally and that all the scholarship-holders who have returned to the Cameroons have been provided with suitable posts.

26. There is also reason to think that the recent changes introduced in the Ecole nationale de la France d'outre-mer will be instrumental in speeding up the Cameroonization of the cadres. As was said above, before 1957 it was extremely difficult, because of the age limits and standards required, for an African to gain admission to this school. Since then, special entrance conditions have been arranged for African students or civil servants in order to enable them to attend courses at this school and, if they are successful in the final examination, to be appointed as administrators or magistrates. Although this arrangement has given good results, a further change has been agreed to and was introduced after the beginning of the academic year in November 1958. In accordance with this new scheme, the Cameroons Government can send to the school, which will henceforward be known as the Institut des hautes études d'outre-mer, anyone whom it considers suitable, subject only to his having reached an adequate educational level. The students so chosen will follow a course of instruction which will last for two academic years and can be rounded off by training courses in various branches of the French administration—for example, the Foreign Ministry in the case of the training of personnel for the future diplomatic representation of the country.

27. The results which have been achieved during the past years in the training of senior Cameroons staff are encouraging. According to information supplied by the Cameroons Government, 329 Cameroonians have been appointed to responsible posts—80 in the general administration, 38 in the judicial department, and 211 in the specialized departments. According to the Prime Minister, 120 officials and 106 assistant officials of the Civil Service of Overseas France were serving in the Territory on 18 October 1958. In the course of its visits to the various government departments at Yaoundé, the Mission noted that, generally speaking, many French officials were working in close association with the Ministers. It must be anticipated that, for several years to come, the Cameroons Government will find it necessary to have recourse to non-Cameroonian officials for a number of important posts.

28. Since the new Statute came into force, the position of expatriate personnel employed in the Cameroons in departments controlled by the French Republic and in those of the Trust Territory has been governed by a Franco-Cameroons Convention (see annex II). By the terms of this Convention, the French Government undertakes to take all necessary steps to meet any request for staff which the Cameroonian Government feels obliged to address to it. French officials seconded to the Cameroons Government continue to enjoy the rights deriving from their membership in the cadre to which they originally belonged, particularly where pay, social benefits and leave are concerned, and to be protected by the general regulations and the regulations of their particular branch, to both of which they are still subject. These officials are a charge on the Cameroons budget, which is also responsible for that part of the contribution to the pension fund which it falls to the employer to pay.

29. As a result of these measures the Cameroons Government will probably have no difficulty in securing the services of the French officials it will need in 1959. As regards the country's needs after the attainment of independence, the spokesman for the Ministry of Overseas France stated that after 1 January 1960, the legal position of France and the Cameroons will be different and that they will then be able to abrogate or by agreement to extend with modifications as desired, the application of this Convention, as indeed of all of the other conventions annexed to the Statute.

30. The recruitment of French officials can, however, be regarded only as a temporary expedient. The real solution is to train a sufficient number of qualified Cameroonians, and the first step towards that end must be to develop the country's educational services. At the present time the only way of training qualified Cameroonians to fill important administrative posts is to send

[8] See *Débats de l'Assemblée nationale, session de* 1955-1956, vol. IV (Paris, Imprimerie des Journaux officiels, 1957), first meeting of 21 March 1956, pp. 1108-1112.

them to France or to other countries abroad to study, since there are no university establishments in the Territory. In this connexion, the Mission is glad to note that the Ministry of National Education of the Cameroons Government is considering the possibility of establishing a university preparatory class at the Yaoundé *lycée* in the near future and also a law school and a national professional school, which would form the nucleus of a higher education system. The Mission also notes that in the recently concluded Franco-Cameroonian Cultural Convention (see annex II), the French Government has undertaken to assist in the eventual establishment and development of a Cameroonian university, by making available to the Cameroons Government any teaching staff it may request.

Economic and social development

31. Owing to its geographical position, the Cameroons has a wide range of production. The main agricultural products are cocoa, coffee, bananas, plam kernels, rubber, tobacco, manioc, yams and plantains in the south and manioc, peanuts, cotton, and more particularly millet in the north. The grazing lands in the north and west are well adapted to cattle-raising, and the Territory has a sizable number of livestock. The forests in the south offer large timber resources and, although the sub-soil has not as yet been surveyed in detail, there appear to be many indications of the existence of mineral deposits.

32. Before 1947 the Territory's economy, which was based mainly on the collection and bartering of natural products, was primitive and extremely vulnerable. The exploitation of natural resources was confined to what was called the " useful " Cameroons, a sector within a radius of 300 kilometres from Douala. The country's installations consisted only of a port capable of handling a maximum annual tonnage of 200,000 tons, a single permanent airfield, a railway network of about 500 kilometres with obsolescent rolling stock, a fairly sizable road system—8,800 kilometres of which, however, were in very poor condition—and, finally, an embryonic processing industry which was largely at the artisan level. In the social field, there were nearly 5,000 hospital beds, and nearly 50,000 pupils were attending primary schools. Although all those facilities represented considerable achievements, they were entirely inadequate to meet the Territory's needs.

33. From 1947 onwards a great effort was made by the Administering Authority, principally under the ten-year economic and social development plan, to accelerate the Territory's economic and social development. The ten-year plan, which emerged from the Act of 30 April 1946, was carried out in two phases, the first from 1947 to 1953 and the second from 1954 from 1958.[9] During those two periods investments totalled 56,902 million francs CFA,[10] two-thirds of which were financed by the Investment Fund for Economic and Social Development (FIDES) and the remainder by the French budget (1,851 million), the Cameroonian budget (1,735 million), loans raised by the Territory and the communes (2,899 million) and the semi-public sector, in particular the mixed companies (14,426 million).

34. The main purpose of the ten-year plan was to improve the infra-structure with a view to facilitating the transport of produce to the markets and the development of production. Together with the economic effort the plan provided for action in the social field, mainly in the sphere of public health and education. Whereas during the first period the emphasis was laid on the infra-structure, during the second period efforts were concentrated on the expansion of production, espacially through its diversification, the development of the country's agricultural wealth, the intensification of domestic trade in agricultural products and the improvement of the general working conditions of the producers.

35. The results of the ten-year plan as reported to the Mission by the High Commissioner's Office are very encouraging. The country's infra-structure was substantially improved between 1947 and 1957. During that period 1,171 kilometres of roads were built, 577 kilometres were tarred, and many engineering works were completed, the most important being the Wouri Bridge, which has a total length of 1,805 metres. Although the railway network has not been extended. considerable improvements have been made, resulting in a sizable reduction in costs and an increase in traffic from 250,000 tons in 1947 to 650,000 tons in 1957. Whereas in 1950 there was only one airfield, the class B field at Douala, there were one class A and twenty-two class C and D airfields in 1956. That year also saw a considerable increase in domestic air traffic over 1950 both in freight (from 1,648 to 15,334 tons) and in passengers (from 10,412 to 98,217). Sea and river traffic also greatly increased, cargoes landed at Douala having risen from 200,000 tons in 1947 to 767,000 tons in 1957, and at the Bénoué River port of Garoua from 25,000 tons to 40,000 tons. In the matter of power production, which is so vital to industrial development, six steam generating stations, which in 1956 sold 22 million KWH, have been constructed, but the main achievement has been the building of the Edéa dam on the Sanaga River which was visited by the Mission, and whose hydro-electric station will produce 1,250,000 KWH when completed. This station, however, has so far been devoted especially—except for the supply of power to Douala—to meeting the needs of an aluminium refining plant which will have a capacity of 45,000 tons in 1959. This factory, also visited by the Mission, is a most impressive industrial installation; it processes alumina shipped there from sources outside the Cameroons, and after smelting the metal is for the most part exported in ingot form. The Mission was informed of plans for the fabrication of aluminium products, including roofing, the supply of which is of great importance to the Territory.

36. Side by side with the improvement of the infra-structure, agricultural production has been considerably developed, both in quality and in quantity. The table below shows the increase in the volume of the main products exported between 1947 and 1957:

	1947 (Tons)	*1957 (Tons)*	*Increase (Tons)*	*Percentage increase*
Bananas	17,000	87,000	70,000	412
Timber	36,000	121,000	85,000	236
Cocoa	33,000	53,000	20,000	66
Coffee	5,500	17,500	12,000	218
Cotton-seed	—	16,000	16,000	—
Rubber	2,000	3,000	1,000	50

On the basis of average prices the value of exports shows an over-all increase of 143 per cent by comparison with 1947. This increase, together with an improvement in the terms of trade, has quadrupled the purchasing power of the Cameroonian producer over a period of ten years. A rise in levels of living in also apparent among wage-earners, whose numbers increased by 434 per cent between 1947 and 1957. The wage index for unskilled workers in the town of Douala increased to nearly thirty times the original figure.

37. Developments in the social sphere have been no less important. In the matter of public health, the development plan made possible the construction of six hospitals, the extension of six others, the establishment of twenty-seven dispensaries, forty-one field posts, four leper hospitals and two research institutes. The Service d'hygiène mobile et de prophylaxie (SHMP) has been greatly extended, in particular through the establishment of twenty-four mobile units. In education five secondary schools have been constructed, as well as two administration buildings, five teacher-training schools, thirty-eight complementary school classrooms, a technical college, thirteen pre-apprenticeship sections, six apprenticeship centres, 279 primary school classrooms, four school camps, nine sports fields and gymnasiums and 118 hostels for pupils. In addition, sixty-five school buildings have been constructed by the missions with FIDES financial assistance. The school enrolment rate has increased from 10 per cent in 1945 (45,000 pupils) to 61 per cent in 1956 (270,000 pupils).

38. As a result of the efforts made, the Cameroons is now relatively well equipped economically and socially. Needless to say, present facilities would benefit by expansion as money and personnel can be provided. The communications network is not yet extended to meet the country's existing needs, particularly in the north and south-east, though the quality of the present roads in particular is impressive. Despite the efforts made through agricultural extension services, a majority of peasant cultivators retain their primitive methods. Although the Territory has a few industrial installations of considerable importance to the economy, in general industrial activities are of little importance. Work to exploit the mineral resources is at present at the research and prospecting stage, with promise of establishing valuable resources. In the social sphere, which has received substantial support from FIDES, health units and additional medical personnel are probably priority needs. The Cameroons, which has an impressively high rate of school enrolments in comparison with most other African countries, could with advantage concentrate on raising the level in the north, where at present approximately 15 per cent of children to go school. As is noted elsewhere, the question of establishing a university for the Territory is being examined by the Ministers who have responsibility in this field.

39. The Mission found that the Cameroonian leaders fully appreciated the fact that much remains to be done. In the course of many conversations the Prime Minister and the members of his Government frequently reiterated, as did also many deputies to the Legislative Assembly, their determination to continue to promote the economic and social development of the country as energetically as possible.

40. The third four-year plan—designed to cover the period 1958-1962—which was recently drawn up by the Cameroons Government and approved by the Legislative Assembly, is evidence of this determination. The plan envisages the continuation of the efforts made under the first two plans to expand the infra-structure and production and to develop social services. The planners have estimated that a total sum of about 25,000 million francs CFA will be required if the various goals envisaged are to be attained. The Territory, however, could provide only 8,650 million, to be derived from the participation of planters and village communities (2,200 million), loans granted by the Crédit du Cameroun (2,200 million), investment of the Société immobilière du Cameroun (800 million), the contribution of the budget of the Cameroons (700 million), the Fonds d'investissement routier (1,000 million), the port investment programme (300 million), the railway investment programme (250 million) and the communal development budgets (1,200 million). The remainder, amounting to 16,000 million, will have to be provided by overseas aid. In submitting the proposals, the planners expressed the hope that they would be able to obtain such external aid, mainly in the form of grants from FIDES, but pointed out that this was not a certainty.

Financial situation and outlook

41. The problem of economic and social development is thus primarily a financial one. Generally speaking the financial problem will, in the opinion of the Mission, be one of the most urgent and difficult with which the Cameroons Government will be faced, if it wishes to maintain the present rate of development. During the past twelve years the Cameroons has received very considerable financial aid from France. According to a note addressed to the Mission by the High Commissioner, this aid, which was given under the heading of expenditure in the French budget or in the form of subsidies or loans, has been applied not only to economic and social development but also the operation of some public services, the balancing of Cameroons finances, the

[9] The two parts of the ten-year plan are often referred to respectively as " the first four-year plan (PQI) " and " the second four-year plan (PQII) ", although they do not cover exactly four years.

[10] The CFA franc has been devalued a number of times since 1947. Before the most recent devaluation on 29 December 1958, the dollar was worth 210 francs CFA; it is now worth 246.50 francs CFA.

development of public agencies and public assistance to private investors. From 1946 to 1957 this aid reached a total of 71,500 million francs CFA, a figure which is only a little lower than the total for expenditure under the Cameroons budget throughout the same period, namely, 74,000 million.

42. Even with the aid received from France the 1958 budget, which was the first prepared by the Cameroons Government, could not be balanced without appreciably restricting development expenditure. The ordinary budget was estimated at a total of 9,507,714,000 francs CFA (as against 11,721 million in 1957) and that for development at 487,363,000 (as against 722 million in 1957). It was, in the words of the Minister of Finance, an " austerity budget ".

43. After 1 January 1959 the Cameroons Government's financial situation appeared likely to become more difficult, particularly in view of the transfer of services which were until then under the authority of the High Commissioner and were paid for from the French budget. In his inaugural address the Prime Minister defined his Government's financial policy as follows:

" Thanks to the funds provided by FIDES and the local budget it has been possible to initiate a programme which is in many ways remarkable. It must be pursued if all the many and varied needs of the masses are to be satisfied.

" A country which wishes to be free and aspires to independence must follow a sound financial policy so that the local budget may progressively take over from the lenders, who are doubtless resolved to continue giving us their generous assistance but whose help should gradually be withdrawn as the country becomes able to finance itself. We shall still require France's aid for a long time to come. Nevertheless, at the risk of appearing both in our own eyes and in those of other countries to be reversing our ideas, we must remodel our financial system in accordance with local requirements. We are staggering under the weight of our recurrent expenditure, particularly expenditure on personnel, while our investment budget is notoriously inadequate. We shall constantly strive to curtail, and indeed eliminate, unprofitable or superfluous expenditure, while at the same time doing everything possible to increase revenue in accordance with a fiscal policy whose primary objective will be a more equitable distribution of taxation.

" The surest guarantee of the strength of a nation, however, particularly in the times in which we live, is a sound and prosperous economy, an economy which makes it possible at one and the same time to raise the level of living of the inhabitants and to develop the budgetary resources required to carry out a programme which, as is recognized, must for a long time to come be directed towards the attainment of social objectives."

44. The Mission welcomes the Cameroons Government's realistic approach to its problems and responsibilities as thus set forth by the Prime Minister. The developing economy holds promise of a continued steady increase in local revenues; but it is evident also that the Government will need to do everything possible to ensure that the administrative structure is kept within limits of size and cost that are commensurate with the financial means of the country. The Mission was given to understand that special attention would be given to these matters in 1959.

45. It is apparent, however, that even in the best of circumstances the Cameroons will require considerable external aid for some time to come. The Mission was informed by the French Government that it is prepared to grant the Cameroons Government a subsidy for 1959 which would completely cover operational expenditure for the transferred services, the amount to be fixed at from 2 to 3 thousand million metropolitan francs or 1,000 to 1,500 million francs CFA. In addition, it would continue in that year to furnish the financial aid which the Cameroons would require to carry out its plan for economic and social development.

46. Thus the problem seems to have been solved up to 31 December 1959. The question for the Cameroons is how its financial requirements are to be met after that date. During a conversation that the Mission had with representatives of the French and Cameroons Governments in Paris, the Prime Minister stated that his Government and the Legislative Assembly were giving this problem their attention and that he hoped the United Nations, France and other countries would grant the Cameroons the assistance it would require. It appeared, however, that the Cameroons Government had not yet raised this matter officially with the French authorities. During the same meeting the High Commissioner of the French Republic in the Cameroons remarked that while the legal obligations binding France and the Cameroons would cease to exits as from 1 January 1960, that did not mean that the obligations of friendship would likewise disappear. It was for the French and Cameroons Governments to discuss freely the assistance which the one could grant the other. Such assistance would depend, naturally, on what the Cameroons Government might request and what France would be able to offer.

47. The present state of development of the Cameroons is unquestionably due in large measure to the substantial financial assistance provided by France over a period of several years. Though it will be of course for the Cameroonian authorities to initiate any changes in economic and financial policies as well as to regulate the space of such change, it is obvious that the economic structure of the Territory would be weakened by any sudden or drastic curtailment of external assistance. The obligations of friendship towards a new State emerging from trusteeship into sovereign and independent existence fortunately do not terminate with the trusteeship obligations of France and the United Nations nor will intangible bonds created through the application of the principle of the sacred trust be severed. The Mission has every reason to believe from its discussions with the authorities concerned that France will consider with sympathy requests for financial or technical assistance, and is confident that the United Nations will itself give every consideration as may be requested to the needs of the Cameroons on its emergence as an independent State.

B. The development of self-government and the demand for independence

Major reforms of 1956 and 1957

48. The Visiting Mission thinks it essential, in order to show the evolution of self-government in the Cameroons, the development of the aspirations of the Cameroonian people for independence and the impact of those aspirations on the attitudes of their elected representatives and on the policy of the Government, to trace briefly the course of events since 1956. At that time the Cameroons, which had for ten years retained basically the same political system, began to emerge from an area of uncertainty as to its future. Moreover, a strong upsurge of nationalism had occurred during this period and an organized movement giving expression to it had come into increasing conflict with the Administering Authority. In 1955 it erupted in violence; and these disturbances, together with the action taken to suppress the movement concerned on the grounds, as the Trusteeship Council was informed at the time, of the methods used rather than the objectives sought, had left tensions and uneasiness in the Territory.

49. The promulgation of the French Law No. 56-619 of 23 June 1956, known as the *loi-cadre*, marked the beginning of a new era for the Cameroons. It signalled the introduction of the first really large-scale reforms made in the Territory since 1946. These reforms in turn gave rise to a series of political developments as a result of which the Territory, at the time of the Mission's visit, was on the very threshold of independence.

50. The importance of the *loi-cadre* for the Cameroons was three-fold. Firstly, it reduced one of the main difficulties which had hindered the earlier introduction of institutional reforms in the Cameroons—namely, the delays encountered in the parliamentary processes. The *loi-cadre* minimized these by providing in its article 9 that the French Government, taking into account the Trusteeship Agreement, could, by means of decrees taken after consultation with the Territorial Assembly and the Assembly of the French Union, inaugurate institutional reforms. Secondly, by making this special provision for the Cameroons, the law specifically recognized the possibility of the Trust Territory following a course of political development suited to its particular circumstances and status and, if need be, different from that envisaged for the French Overseas Territories proper. Thirdly, article 10 of the *loi-cadre* provided that future elections to all assemblies in the Territories under French administration should be held on the basis of universal adult suffrage.

51. In accordance with these provisions, and in consultation with the Cameroonian representatives in in the French assemblies, the French Government drafted a Statute of the Cameroons granting the Territory a wide measure of internal autonomy. The Territorial Assembly which had been elected on 30 March 1952 on a restricted franchise was dissolved by a decree of 8 November 1956, three months before the expiration of its term of office, in order to make way for a new Assembly which, in addition to its normal functions, was to pronounce its views on the draft Statute.

52. The elections held on 23 December 1956 to fill the seventy seats in the new Assembly were of additional importance because for the first time, in accordance with the provisions of the *loi-cadre*, they were conducted by universal suffrage and with a single electoral college. These innovations were far-reaching in their effect: in preparation for the elections the electoral rolls were specially revised, and the number of registered electors almost doubled. The total increased from 853,932 to 1,685,059, representing 56 per cent of the population of the Cameroons.

53. Before describing the electoral campaign and the results of the election, it may be well to deal briefly with political activity in the Territory before the election. A large number of political parties had come into being in the Cameroons since 1947, but most of them were small groups led by one or more prominent politicians and often having no definite programme of action or tangible organization. Their influence was on the whole small and limited to certain areas.

54. There were, however, some exceptions. Up to 1955 the chief of these was the Union des populations du Cameroun (UPC), which possessed a strongly centralized organization and a well-defined programme, including in particular the independence and unification of the two Cameroons, and which had a wide appeal in the south. In 1955, however, following violent clashes in which the UPC was involved, that party and two associated bodies, the Jeunesse démocratique du Cameroun (JDC) and the Union démocratique des femmes camerounaises (UDEFEC) were dissolved by the French Government by a decree of 13 July 1955.

55. The incidents of May 1955 and the dissolution of the UPC and its affiliates have already been thoroughly discussed by the Trusteeship Council and there is no need to cover the ground again. It is sufficient to recall that during the incidents twenty-six persons were killed and 189 wounded and that the events led to 722 arrests. After the incidents many members of the UPC, including Mr. Ruben Um Nyobé, the General Secretary, withdrew into the forests of the Sanaga-Maritime Region, where they maintained some sort of organization and conducted a movement of resistance to the Administration. Others fled to the Cameroons under British administration and set up their head quarters at Kumba. Subsequently the party was banned by the Nigerian authorities and a number of ist leaders were deported.

56. By the autumn of 1955 some sections of public opinion in the Cameroons, including not only former members of the dissolved parties but also some political personalities of whom the most prominent was Mr. Paul Soppo Priso, then President of the Territorial Assembly, were appealing for a political amnesty and for the reconciliation of all Cameroonians, and an amnesty bill drafted by the French Government was being discussed in the French Parliament.

57. In June 1956, when the *loi-cadre* was promulgated, Mr. Soppo Priso started a movement known as Union nationale, the purpose of which was to unite the political

parties, while preserving their individuality, in a common "minimum programme". The main features of this were the rejection of the *loi-cadre*, the election by universal suffrage of an Assembly to consider jointly with the French authorities the lines on which the Territory could achieve independence, the reunification of the two Cameroons and the proclamation of a general political amnesty in the Territory. The movement was at first warmly welcomed in the south of the Territory and a large number of prominent people joined it, including some of the leaders of the Union sociale camerounaise (USC), the Bloc démocratique camerounais (BDC), the Coordination des Indépendants camerounais (INDECAM) and the Evolution sociale camerounaise (ESOCAM), and some former members of the Union des populations du Cameroun. Its success in unifying so wide a range of tendencies, however, was short-lived. A number of political parties were divided on the question of supporting the movement and many prominent people, concerned at the growing influence of extremist elements, soon withdrew from it. At a congress held at Ebolowa in November 1956 the majority, under the leadership of Mr. Soppo Priso, decided to participate in the territorial elections which the Administering Authority had by then decided to hold. This proved contrary to the wishes of the UPC sympathizers, who favoured abstention. This split led to the disappearance of the Union nationale movement as such from the political scene. A basic reason for the split appeared to be the fact that the impending elections by universal suffrage gave great encouragement to those who sought to take rapid but constitutional action towards independence.

58. The elections were conducted essentially on regional lines, and the choice before the voters was not so much between clearly defined political movements as between prominent local personalities and the other candidates associated with them. Nevertheless, the electoral campaign conducted by the candidates was not lacking in vigour and there was lively controversy in many areas regarding the lines to be followed in the development of the Cameroons and the nature of its constitutional future. It is worthy of note that independence was a popular theme; all the sucessful candidates favoured it as the destiny, sooner or later, of the Cameroons. The dissolved UPC played a more systematically organized part than any of the legal political movements, but that part was a negative one, and limited to a small part of the Territory. It decided to carry on a campaign for abstention, which was in fact punctuated by acts of sabotage. In the month of the elections numerous acts of sabotage were committed, in particular at Douala, at Yaoundé and in the Sanaga-Maritime, where two candidates, Mr. Charles Delangué and Mr. Samuel Mpouma, were assassinated.

59. It is essential, in order to understand the present political situation in the Territory, to appreciate the conditions under which the elections were held and to recognize in particular that the effect which the tactics of the supporters of the outlawed UPC had on them was in fact extremely limited. A year and a half had passed since the UPC and its affiliates had been dissolved; its field of significant clandestine activity had been reduced more and more to parts of the city of Douala and to the Sanaga-Maritime area in the immediate hinterland; and the political climate had changed to the extent that all of the leading candidates in the elections had openly espoused the cause of independence, which had been the rallying cry of the UPC.

60. That situation, in the Mission's opinion, was clearly reflected by the results of the elections. There were only two regions, out of a total of nineteen, where the abstention campaign of the UPC could be said to have appreciably increased the normal rate of abstention: these were Wouri, a small region consisting mainly of the city of Douala, where 22 per cent of the registered electors voted; and the Sanaga-Maritime, where 14 per cent voted. These results must be considered in their proper perspective. The total population of Wouri is 113,212 and of the Sanaga-Maritime 164,323: together they represent hardly 9 per cent of the population of the Territory as a whole. Moreover, the polling was high elsewhere in the southern half of the Cameroons, including areas where the UPC had once been well organized: thus in the Mungo Region, lying just north of Douala and against the frontier with the other Cameroons, 66 per cent voted; in the Yaoundé Region 70 per cent; and in the Ntem Region 80 per cent. Only in the Sanaga-Maritime was there actual violence against persons, confined even there to one district where the two candidates mentioned above were murdered; and it is worth noting that one of these, Mr. Delangué, had campaigned strongly on a programme of independence and unification of the Cameroons. In Wouri, moreover, the seats were won by Mr. Soppo Priso, the leader of the national movement to which the UPC supporters had adhered for several months, and Mr. Bétoté-Akwa, a member of Mr. Soppo Priso's present political group.

61. In the less developed northern regions of the Cameroons, where the influence of the UPC was virtually non-existent, other factors explain the polling; for example, the relatively smaller interest in politics and the extension of suffrage to women for the first time in an area where Moslem custom and tradition were strong. The lowest vote was in the mountainous and mainly pagan Margui-Wandala (Mokolo) Region, where 32 per cent of the registered electors voted. The vote was as high as 64 per cent in other parts of the north, and about 50 per cent for the north as a whole. The average for the entire Territory was 55 per cent and, if the Wouri and Sanaga-Maritime Regions are excluded, almost 60 per cent. The result thus compared favourably with those produced in other countries of Africa and elsewhere.

62. Owing to the murder of two of the candidates in the Sanaga-Maritime, there were sixty-eight instead of seventy members to constitute the new Assembly. The elections of three of them—the two others from the Sanaga-Maritime and one from Dschang—were declared invalid; they appealed and the case was still pending before the *Conseil d'Etat* at the time of the Mission's visit.

63. The new Assembly met on 28 January 1957. From the outset the members formed themselves into

groups: the Union camerounaise, with thirty members; the Démocrates camerounais, with twenty members; the Paysans indépendants, with nine members; and the Action nationale, with eight members. One member remained unattached. These groups, which were originally set up on regional lines, soon began to adopt united political positions on the various questions and, except for the Paysans indépendants, developed later into political parties outside the Assembly. These political parties had at the time of the Mission's visit acquired varying degrees of organization and influence among the people, and the Union camerounaise and the Action nationale in particular were endeavouring to establish branches outside the areas to which their leaders belonged.

64. The first question of importance taken up by the newly elected Assembly was the new draft Statute, which was given a detailed and often controversial examination, both in committee and in plenary meeting. During its examination a number of amendments were proposed. The Assembly finally adopted the draft Statute, as amended, by 59 votes to 8. The draft was subsequently discussed in the Assembly of the French Union and then adopted by the French Parliament. The Statute was finally published, in the form proposed by the Territorial Assembly of the Cameroons, in decree No. 57-501, of 26 April 1957.

Developments under the first Government

65. The Statute went into force on 9 May 1957. On that date the Cameroons became a Trust State and the Territorial Assembly was transformed into a Legislative Assembly. Mr. André-Marie Mbida, a member of the Démocrates camerounais group, who, as a Deputy also to the French National Assembly, had played a leading part in the prior consultations of the draft Statute in Paris, was designated Prime Minister by the High Commissioner and confirmed in office by the Assembly on 15 May. Mr. Mbida formed a coalition government consisting of seven members of his own group, five members of the Union camerounaise, two members of the Paysans indépendants group and a Cameroons senator in the Council of the French Republic, who was not a member of the Assembly. The eight members of the Action nationale group formed the Opposition.

66. The Mbida government remained in power until February 1958 when Mr. Mbida, the Prime Minister, lost the confidence of the legislature. During that period it set up the new Cameroons ministries and took over the services which had previously been within the High Commissioner's competence. It also had a very delicate problem to deal with—namely, the rebellious movement organized by the UPC. Under the Statute, of course, this problem was within the competence of the High Commissioner, but it could not be dealt with entirely independently of the Cameroons Government or of Cameroons opinion in general. Moreover, although the problem was physically confined to a very small part of the Territory, the tensions that arose from it, as well as the differences of opinion as to a solution, were relatively widespread.

67. It has already been explained that the leaders of the former UPC, who had withdrawn to the forests of the Sanaga-Maritime Region or had fled to Kumba, in the Cameroons under British administration, had started a resistance movement in the Cameroons under French administration. According to information supplied to the Mission, a paramilitary organization known as the Comité national d'organisation (CNO) was set up in December 1956 for the purpose of directing terrorist activities in the Territory. In the Sanaga-Maritime Region the terrorists committed sporadic acts of violence, directed chiefly against planters and village chiefs, killing some, kidnapping others, and sacking or burning down their houses. Similar incursions were made in the Mungo and Bamiléké Regions, frequently by gangs who came from the British zone and returned there after having committed their crimes. In the view of the High Commissioner's Office these were frequently acts of simple banditry rather than of political terrorism, even when they were committed in the name of politics. Following a period of relative tranquillity for several months of 1957, there was a fresh outbreak of terrorism from September onwards. The most serious incident occurred on 15 December, when Mr. Samuel Wanko, a deputy from Bamiléké, and six others were killed in an ambush near Bafoussam. A noteworthy feature of this campaign of violence was the total absence of attacks on Europeans and their properties, including plantations.

68. The High Commissioner, in agreement with the Cameroons Government, took various steps to deal with the terrorism. The security forces in Sanaga-Maritime, which at the beginning of 1956 consisted of 150 to 200 men, were reinforced in September of 1957. Early in November, at the request of the Cameroons Government, those forces, which then comprised 400 men, were further reinforced by two companies of French troops. Similarly, the police force in the Bafoussam administrative subdivision was strengthened after the murder of Mr. Wanko, and proceedings were instituted and warrants issued for the arrest of all those who were known to have been implicated in acts of violence. By the end of the year between 100 and 150 arrests had been made. Simultaneously with the strengthening of the security forces in the Sanaga-Maritime, and in order both to afford greater protection to the widely scattered population and to isolate the armed bands in the forest, between 10,000 and 15,000 people were regrouped in villages along the roads, in many cases surrounded by stockades and supplied with alarm signals. Movement in the area was restricted. A "pacification zone" under military command was established in the Sanaga-Maritime, and the systematic hunting out of the rebel bands continued for many months: it appeared, indeed, to be coming to an end only at the time of the Mission's visit.

69. The existence and development of this situation inevitably resulted, before the Government had been in office for many months, in a good deal of uneasiness in the minds of the people outside the troubled areas

themselves. There were many who, while condemning acts of violence from whatever quarter, and while not necessarily questioning the need for firm action to suppress the rebellion in the Sanaga-Maritime, considered it urgent that a political basis for peace and reconciliation should no less actively be sought. They appeared convinced that the approach to a permanent solution lay in the grant of an amnesty for political acts committed since 1955; and the appeals for such an amnesty grew in number.

70. As has been mentioned earlier (para. 56), the French Government had in fact drawn up an amnesty bill in 1956. This bill, which provided, *inter alia*, for a general amnesty applicable in respect of all acts committed during the incidents of May 1955 which were subject to a penalty of up to five years' imprisonment, and also for the possibility of applying the amnesty by decree to all persons sentenced to prison terms of up to twenty years for such acts, had been submitted to the French Parliament on 2 August of that year. The French Government had hoped that the bill would be adopted without delay so that the elections to the Territorial Assembly on 23 December 1956 could be held in the most favourable conditions. However, a number of circumstances, including the fact that the Parliament was in recess until October, combined to prevent any action being taken before November. In November the bill was initially examined by the Assembly of the French Union, which approved it on 20 November. It was then referred to the National Assembly, which adopted it on first reading on 11 December and transmitted it to the Council of the Republic, which was to take a decision on the matter within two months. The decision was, however, postponed because the outbreaks of terrorism which occurred at that time apparently made it inadvisable to adopt conciliatory measures. It was only much later, on 29 November 1957, that the Council of the Republic turned its attention to the bill. It drafted a number of amendments to the text approved by the National Assembly, the most important of which was to replace the general amnesty for certain deeds by individual acts of pardon. The text proposed by the Council of the Republic was referred to the National Assembly, which adopted it on 7 February 1958. It was promulgated ten days later as Act No. 58-148 of 17 February 1958.

71. Efforts made to find a political solution to the situation in the Sanaga-Maritime broke down in the face of the persistent refusal of the UPC to renounce violence unconditionally and also of its demand for relegalization. On 13 July 1957 Mr. Um Nyobé addressed to the High Commissioner and the Prime Minister " proposals for a political and moral *détente* ". According to a note transmitted to the Mission by the High Commissioner's Office, these proposals did no more than reiterate the usual demands of the party (amnesty, repeal of the decree of 13 July 1955, immediate independence and reunification) and were followed by threats of what would happen if the suggested programme were not taken into consideration. These proposals were rejected and several weeks later, on 5 September 1957, the more serious terrorist activity already described was begun. The second attempt at reconciliation was made on the initiative of Mgr. Mongo, the Bishop of Douala, who, like Mr. Um Nyobé, is a Bassa. The two men met in October 1957, near the main road through the Sanaga-Maritime, to discuss the possibilities of a return to normal life. After the meeting Mgr. Mongo went to see Mr. Mbida at Yaoundé. The bishop's initiative, which was described to the Mission as having been entirely unofficial, did not produce any positive result.

72. Mr. Mbida had adopted an uncompromising attitude towards the UPC which hardened still further when the new wave of terrorism broke out in the disturbed regions late in 1957. In a statement made at Boumnyebel in the Sanaga-Maritime in November he called for the surrender of the UPC in the following terms: while there would be pardon for those who had committed minor offences, the others would be subjected to severe penalties; he would give them a time limit of ten days in which to surrender, under pain of being treated as rebels. The ultimatum had no useful result, and its failure appeared to affect the progress of the amnesty measure, for when the French National Assembly examined the amnesty bill on second reading it was explained that the primary reason why the text had been amended restrictively by the Council of the Republic was that the Cameroons Government and Assembly were opposed to a general amnesty.

73. According to the information which the Mission was able to gather, it was partly Mr. Mbida's rigorous attitude towards the UPC, but also certain other aspects of his policy, which contributed to the political crisis early in 1958 which led to his resignation. Among these other aspects was his attitude with regard to the future of the Territory, which failed to keep pace with a phenomenon becoming more and more apparent: namely, the growing aspirations of the people, as expressed by most of the other political leaders, for what were the stated objectives of the UPC itself—the independence and reunification of the two Cameroons. Mr. Mbida's ideas on this subject were clearly different: As set forth in the programme of action adopted by his Démocrates camerounais group on 26 January 1958, his view was that although the independence of the Cameroons was the goal to be attained, the time for it was not ripe; his group proposed to draw up a ten-year programme of economic, social and political development, at the end of which the situation could be objectively reconsidered. Moreover, his group decided not to include the question of the reunification of the two Cameroons in its programme. It felt that each territory should develop within its own framework and that the problem of unification could be studied in connexion with any possible plan for a " United States " of tropical Africa.

74. Shortly after the adoption of this programme several ministers submitted their resignations and motions of censure were placed before the Assembly. Mr. Mbida at first tried to replace the ministers who had resigned by members of his own group, but when the High Commissioner in office at the time refused to confirm the nominations he decided to submit his own resignation.

Formation of the present Government; the demand for independence

75. A new Prime Minister, Mr. Ahmadou Ahidjo, a deputy from Garoua, was appointed, and his inverstitue took place on 19 February 1958 following a vote of 45 in favour with 15 abstentions. It was Mr. Mbida's group, the Démocrates camerounais, then reduced to sixteen members, which abstained in the vote on the investiture; but its chairman explained that in so doing it did not mean to declare itself as a formal opposition. The new Government was a coalition of the Union camerounaise group led by the Prime Minister (two ministers), the Paysans indépendants (one), and the former Opposition group, the Action nationale (two).[11] A sixth minister belonged to no group. Three other ministers were appointed from outside the Assembly. Subsequently one of these was replaced by a member of the Union camerounaise.

76. The policy of the new Government was set forth in Mr. Ahidjo's inaugural speech. In it he stated that whereas the year 1957 had constitued an initial stage, the year 1958 should be marked by the establishment of a programme which would save the Cameroons from aimless drifting and that several conditions must exist if the country was to be conscious of a national soul of which it could be proud and an ideal on which to focus hopes, namely, Cameroonian unity, including the reunification of the two Cameroons; a Cameroons nation which would achieve independence within a reasonable period of time; and Franco-Cameroons co-operation, which could have no meaning in the absence of an inter-African community. He considered it essential that there should be a reform of the internal and administrative structure which should enable the Cameroons to take its place in the international community " with its head erect and its heart filled with gladness ", implying a modification of the present Statute and, first and foremost, the elimination of the duality between the Cameroons services and those of the French State. Finally, in an appeal to the outlawed movement, Mr. Ahidjo stated:

> " The independence to which the Cameroons aspires cannot be conceived except in the union of all its children, for what would it avail our country to present itself before the community of nations if it were still divided by fratricidal quarrels and strife? I therefore appeal to all, on the eve of the decisive step which we are about to take, to give proof of a spirit of harmony and understanding, inspired one and all by the same patriotism, so that we may be united.
>
> " I shall not tolerate the existence of two classes of Cameroonians, one of them outcast and marked with the seal of opprobrium, and although the wrongs of the past can to a certain extent be forgotten, my Government cannot permit one part of the population of this country deliberately to place itself outside the law."

[11] At the time of the Mission's visit, the Legislative Assembly consisted of 29 members belonging to the Union camerounaise and five others affiliated with it; 12 members of the Démocrates camerounais; eight members of the Action nationale; eight members of the Paysans indépendants; and five independent members.

77. From then on the Ahidjo government concentrated attention on those two questions: the future status of the Territory, the primary objective being its accession to independence and its reunification with the Cameroons under British administration; and the re-establishment of law and order in the Territory. By May of 1958 it was ready to take a positive step; it prepared a draft resolution on independence and submitted it to the Legislative Assembly. In an address which he delivered on 10 May, on the occasion of the first anniversary of the Cameroonian national holiday, Mr. Ahidjo made the following important observations on the subject:

> " Each of us carries within him the memory of those post-war years when, after the establishment of the Representative Assembly and subsequently of the Territorial Assembly, there was born the consciousness of the common weal, the feeling of belonging to a nation which was advancing towards its rightful destiny.
>
> " During these twelve years in which the Cameroonian masses have been undergoing their political apprenticeship, the *élite* and the elected representatives of the people have felt more and more keenly the desire to go forward and assume increasing responsibility for the conduct of the affairs of their country.
>
> " The Power which the League of Nations and subsequently the United Nations appointed as our guardian and which in the course of the years has come to have an understanding of our people and with it an affection for them, kept a careful watch over the development of our aspirations. It must be acknowledged that some sceptics viewed with uneasiness the increasingly impatient desire of many Cameroonians to put to the test the capabilities which they had acquired under the ten years of democratic rule.
>
> " Yet France, like a wise father, was quick to understand that bonds of mutual affection and understanding were to be forged not by impeding developments which were inevitable, but rather by enabling them to take place without conflict and violence.
>
> " The metropolitan country preferred a progressive development, the first stage of which it determined in conjunction with us, to a stagnation fraught with serious consequences. The first stage is of capital importance for us because for the first time in its history the Cameroons is being governed, as far as most of its domestic affairs are concerned, by Cameroonians freely and properly elected by the whole people.
>
> " Without the word 'nation' being pronounced, the Cameroons has become a nation with its own institutions, its flag, its anthem and its national holiday. No one can underestimate the importance for our country of this awakening to parliamentary life. This stage, however, began one year ago today and while we have completed it without too many difficulties, we must consider what the next stage is to be.

"In the programme submitted to the Legislative Assembly at the time of my investiture I stated that my Government would request France to broaden the scope of the present Statute. Since then demonstrations of understanding and goodwill have been forthcoming from all sides. The representative of France to the United Nations, the Minister for Overseas France, and again the day before yesterday Mr. Torre, the High Commissioner, have assured us that the sole concern of the metropolitan country with regard to us is to enable our country to continue to assume its ever-increasing responsibilities so that it may reach the final stage of its destiny under the best possible conditions.

"Accordingly, as announced yesterday on the radio, my Government has placed before the Legislative Assembly a draft resolution requesting the French authorities:

"To recognize the aspiration of the Cameroons State to independence;

"To transfer to the Cameroons State all powers relating to the domestic affairs of the country;

"Finally, to keep it under the Trusteeship System until the proclamation of independence.

"With regard to the first point, i.e., recognition of the aspiration of the Cameroons to independence, France is requested to lay down unequivocally the principle of the right of the Cameroons to accede to full sovereignty within a period of time which we, in agreement with France, shall determine. The independence of the Cameroons has certainly been talked about for a long time. We consider that the time has come to do away with any ambiguity on the subject and to decide what our future is to be. That is why we are anxious that the new Statute should include a solemn official affirmation of the principle of the independence of the Cameroons.

"After the decision taken by the Legislative Assembly, we confidently expect the metropolitan country to give its answer clearly and without reservations. Only when the situation is clearly established and there are no ambiguities will it be possible for us freely to determine, having regard to our common interests, what the future relationship between the Cameroons and France should be.

"As I have repeatedly stated, we shall never forget, when the time comes, the innumerable ties which unite us with France, and our reciprocal friendship will undoubtedly always have a great and happy influence on our future relations. The wisdom of the people tells us that 'God helps those who help themselves'. Accordingly, it would be futile and mistaken to expect France to build the modern and sovereign Cameroons of tomorrow entirely by its own efforts. It is true that France, together with the United Nations, will work to obtain us that place in the community of nations to which a completely free country is legally entitled. It can also, by continuing to give us the benefit of its technical assistance and financial aid, enable us to proceed along the road towards independence without too many difficulties.

"Yet that will not be enough to prepare the Cameroons for the severe trials which await any free State in the world of today. The hardest part will, and must always, devolve upon us Cameroonians. It is for us to achieve the unity which will enable us to appraise and to perform the many tasks which await us."

78. The draft resolution was adopted by the Legislative Assembly on 12 June. The members of the Démocrates camerounais group stated that their position remained unchanged and they refused to take part in the voting. The resolution read as follows:

"The Legislative Assembly of the Cameroons, in accordance with the provisions of article 59 of decree No. 57-501 setting forth the Statute of the Cameroons, requests the Government of the French Republic to amend the Statute of the Cameroons so as to:

"Recognize the option of the States of the Cameroons for independence upon the termination of trusteeship;

"Transfer to the State of the Cameroons all powers relating to the conduct of its domestic affairs;

"Maintain the United Nations trusteeship.

"It invites the Cameroonian Government to negotiate on these general lines the terms of the new Statute of the Cameroons which will be submitted to it and which should consitute the stage of transition to independence.

"The Legislative Assembly of the Cameroons confirms the statements of the Prime Minister, head of the Government of the Cameroons, concerning the desire of the Cameroonian people to see the two Cameroons reunified.

"The Legislative Assembly of the Cameroons expresses the hope that the Cameroons, once it has attained its independence, may be able to associate itself cordially and freely with France in the joint interests of the two countries."

Negotiations with France; time-table for independence

79. With the mandate given to him by the Legislative Assembly, Mr. Ahidjo went on 22 June 1958 to Paris for talks with the representatives of the French Government. The negotiations, which took place from June to October, first in Paris, then at Yaoundé and then in Paris again, proceeded, according to the parties themselves, in an atmosphere of mutual understanding and friendship. The French Government formally recognized the option of the Cameroons for independence during 1960 upon the termination of trusteeship. Agreement was reached on the broad outlines of a new statute, accompanied by nine conventions, providing for the transfer to the Cameroons on 1 January 1959 of all powers except external affairs, defence and monetary and foreign exchange policy. During the negotiations, Mr. Ahidjo apparently did not ask for a specific date in 1960 to be fixed for the termination of trusteeship; that question was left to be determined by consultation in the Territory itself.

80. On 18 October 1958 the draft statute and conventions were placed before the Legislative Assembly of the Cameroons. The significance of that act lends special interest to the Prime Minister's accompanying statement, of which certain relevant passages are set out below:

"I am therefore glad to inform you today that our talks at Paris and Yaoundé have been fruitful and that the Government is now able to submit satisfactory proposals to you. At this session, you will be called upon to study in detail the draft statute drawn up in pursuance of the resolution you adopted on 12 June 1957. I wish merely to bring out its main features, in order that you may be better prepared to consider the draft.

"The preamble sets forth the principle of the recognition by the French Republic of the option of the Cameroons for independence.

"With regard to the development of the Cameroons as an entity, the Statute provides for the recognition of a Cameroons citizenship. The consequences of this are very important; let me stress in particular the fact that the Cameroons will be represented on the Permanent Defence Secretariat of the High Commissioner's Office and on the Monetary Committee for the Franc Zone, and that we shall be consulted by the French Government in any international negotiations which may concern us.

"With regard to the management of our affairs, the new Statute marks the accession of the Cameroons to complete domestic self-government, which implies full legislative and administrative powers and the transfer of the domestic powers hitherto reserved to the High Commissioner's Office. Thus, the Prime Minister will preside over the Council of Ministers and will alone be competent to dissolve the Assembly, if the occasion arises.

"The responsibility for public order, the organization of the judiciary, civil liberties, customs regulations, higher and secondary education programmes and penal commercial legislation, all of which spheres have hitherto been reserved to the High Commissioner's Office, will be within the sole jurisdiction of the Cameroonian State.

"The draft Statute thus provides for the transfer to the Cameroonian Government, from 1 January 1959, of powers and departments which have hitherto been the responsibility of the High Commissioner's Office. The delegations of Douala and Garoua,[12] the *chefs de circonscriptions administratives* and their assistants, the judiciary service, the administrative courts, the security services, the *Garde camerounaise*, the ports administration and the internal meteorological and aeronautical services will from 1 January 1959 be under the Cameroonian Government alone.

"The Statute is accompanied by a number of conventions governing the relations between the French and Cameroonian Governments in spheres in which France's assistance is still indispensable to us. Thus, we have drawn up a convention on monetary matters (for the Cameroons will remain in the franc zone), a convention on defence (for we still do not possess any army of our own), and a convention on foreign trade. Two additional conventions lay down the conditions for the transfer of judicial powers and the terms for the provision of cultural assistance.

"Such, in its broad outlines, is the new Statute which has been placed before you. I am especially pleased to inform you that it may well remain in force for less than one year. For under the terms of reference which you laid down for me, I had to endeavour to seek for our country ways of attaining to independence. Accordingly, talks on this specific point too were held with the French Government. You know that General de Gaulle's Government has formulated a plan of bold reforms, particularly in connexion with the overseas territories. As you recently heard, this plan has borne fruit in the independence of Guinea and the establishment of the Republic of Madagascar. It was in the hope of meeting with similarly wide understanding in respect of the Cameroons that we began our talks with the French Government.

"I am able to inform you that our hopes have not been vain. If our country had not been under United Nations trusteeship, we should have been able to express our will clearly in the referendum [on the French constitution] held on 28 September 1958. But that referendum could obviously apply only to overseas territories which were directly connected with the metropolitan State, and with it alone.

"France cannot decide the destinies of the Trust Territories, since the United Nations, which is, as it were, our protector, retains the authority to decide on the termination of trusteeship. We therefore first approached the French Government with a view to reaching some agreement in principle which would enable us to bring the matter before the United Nations on a basis of complete harmony.

"As I told you a moment ago, I found every necessary understanding in Paris. This understanding is expressed in a letter I have just received from the Minister for Overseas France, stating that France is prepared to support immediately, before the General Assembly of the United Nations, a request for the termination of trusteeship, if we decide to make such a request. The termination of trusteeship, that is to say, independence, is therefore within our reach, provided that we know what we want and initiate the necessary procedure.

"Only those who demand immediate and unconditional independence ignore the fact that the termination of trusteeship is subject to United Nations consent, and that this consent itself can only be given after a thorough investigation has been carried out to ascertain with absolute certainty the will of the country. . . ."

81. Before concluding his statement, the Prime Minister also expressed his Government's intention to begin

[12] There is special representation of the Administration at these main centres of the southern and northen groups of administrative regions respectively.

taks at once with the authorities of the Cameroons under British administration with a view to the unification of the two Cameroons, and declared that that problem should be solved before independence was proclaimed.

Request of the Assembly for unification and independence

82. A draft resolution proclaiming the desire of the Cameroons for independence and the termination of the trusteeship on 1 January 1960 and for the unification of the two Cameroons was submitted by the Government on 21 October 1958 to the Legislative Assembly. The resolution, adopted by the Assembly on 24 October, reads as follows:

"The Legislative Assembly of the Cameroons,

"Aware that it is expressing the unanimous feeling of the peoples of all the regions of the Cameroons,

"Notes with satisfaction the negotiations carried on by the Prime Minister which have resulted, in conformity with the resolution of 12 June 1958, in the transfer to the State of the Cameroons of all powers relating to the conduct of internal affairs as from 1 January 1959; and the agreement of the French Government that the procedures for the termination of international trusteeship should be initiated;

"Solemnly proclaims the will of the Cameroonian people that the State of the Cameroons should attain national independence on 1 January 1960;

"Reaffirms its attachment to the principle of the reunification of the two Cameroons and urges that all steps be taken to ensure that the peoples concerned may, in complete freedom, express their will concerning such reunification before 1 January 1960;

"Therefore calls on the Cameroonian Government to request that France should bring before the General Assembly of the United Nations, during its present session, the matter of the abrogation of the Trusteeship Agreement concomitant with the independence of the Cameroons;

"Opposes any attempt which may be made to delay the attainment of full sovereignty by the Cameroonian people;

"Pays a tribute to the work accomplished by France in the Cameroons and renews the wish which it expressed on 12 June that an independent and sovereign Cameroons should participate in a free and amicable association with France in the interest of the two countries."

83. Only seven deputies opposed the resolution, and they belonged to the Démocrates camerounais group led by Mr. Mbida. These stated that they had voted against the resolution not because they were opposed to independence, but because they wished it to be proclaimed immediately. It was as a result of this resolution that the French Government brought the question of the termination of trusteeship before the Trusteeship Council at its ninth special session (940th meeting) in November 1958 (see chapter II).

The 1959 Statute

84. The draft Statute, designed to cover the last transitional phase before independence—the calendar year 1959—was first examined by the Administrative Committee of the Legislative Assembly. Several changes were made in the original draft; the three most important of these related to the rights of French citizens (article 2)[13] the representation of the Cameroons in metropolitan assemblies (article 4), the motions of censure against the Government (article 17). Article 2 of the original text provided that Cameroons citizens should enjoy throughout the French Republic the rights and freedoms guaranteed to French citizens and that the latter should enjoy in the Cameroons, by virtue of reciprocity, the rights attaching to the status of Cameroons citizens. The Committee proposed that participation in elections and political or communal activity should be excluded from the rights granted to French citizens in respect of the Cameroons, and to Cameroons citizens in respect of France. The second change related to article 4, which provided, subject to the approval of the Legislative Assembly, for the continued representation of the Cameroons in metropolitan assemblies. The Committee proposed that the article should be deleted. Finally, article 17 of the original draft provided that the Legislative Assembly could dissolve the Cabinet by means of a motion of censure voted by open ballot by a two-thirds majority. The committee proposed that the two-thirds majority should be replaced by a simple majority.

85. The Legislative Assembly accepted all the changes proposed by its committee, and on 20 November 1958 adopted the draft Statute, as amended. Only four deputies voted against the draft, and they belonged to the Démocrates camerounais group; they considered that so far as the Statute was concerned the Assembly had no right to substitute itself for the Cameroonian people.

86. After the Mission had returned to Headquarters it was informed that the Statute had been given effect in a French Government ordinance dated 30 December 1958. Examination of the ordinance shows that all the changes proposed by the Cameroons Legislative Assembly have been included in the Statute except one, the change which would exclude, from the rights granted to French and Cameroons citizens, their participation in the elections and in political or communal activity in each other's country. The text of the Statute, which entered into force on 1 January 1959, as intended, appears in annex II to the present report. The Statute contains a preamble in which the French Republic takes note of the resolutions adopted by the Cameroons Legislative Assembly on 12 June and 24 October 1958, undertakes to take all appropriate measures to promote the attainment of independence by the Cameroons and declares that the new institutions mark the last stage before the termination of the Trusteeship Agreement.

87. The provisions of the Statute show, in the Mission's opinion, that for normal practical purposes, the French Republic cannot claim any major responsibilities other than those for monetary and exchange policy, foreign affairs, frontier security and the defence of the State of the Cameroons.

88. In case of armed disturbances, however, the High Commissioner and the Prime Minister may issue a joint order proclaiming a state of exception (*état d'exception*), which has the effect of transferring to the High Commissioner, in a given territorial area and for a fixed period, the responsibility for the maintenance of order and of putting at his disposal the administrative authorities, the personnel, the forces and material means which he requires.

89. Dependent on the Statute are nine conventions (reproduced in annex II) concluded between the French Government and the Cameroons Government, which fix the conditions of administrative, technical, economic, financial and cultural co-operation and should also be taken into account in any consideration of the practical application of the Statute.

Suppression of the rebellion

90. By the time the present Government took office in February 1958, the suppression by reinforced French military forces of the rebellious bands operating from the heavy forests of the Sanaga-Maritime Region had begun. The Mission was informed that the situation which had developed during and after September of 1957, when the remaining UPC adherents in the region had returned after a long period of relative quiet to organized acts of terrorism and plunder against whole villages as well as individual African chiefs and others, contained a serious risk to the peace of the Territory unless it could be contained and defeated in the limited area of the Sanaga-Maritime.

91. In January 1958 new army units had been sent to reinforce the forces already stationed in the Sanaga-Maritime, bringing them up to a strength of eight companies, and bringing that of the security forces as a whole to about 1,000 men, including a few platoons of auxiliary gendarmes. Similarly, two companies of troops were sent to strengthen the forces in the Bamiléké Region—where, however, the sporadic incidents appeared to be acts of banditry rather than an organized campaign with political motives. In the Sanaga-Maritime there was set in motion the systematic effort to break the remaining strength of the UPC, and at the same time to protect the people and isolate them from the rebel bands by regrouping their villages.

92. Although the new Government, like its predecessor, condemned the continued resort of the UPC leaders to violence, it adopted a much more conciliatory attitude towards the dissolved party. From its position in favour of independence and unification—the very slogan of the UPC—it was well placed to argue the futility of violence. Moreover, Mr. Soppo Priso's Groupe d'action nationale, which had always favoured a general amnesty, was now represented in the Government, and many other political leaders, such as Mr. Daniel Kemajou, the President of the Legislative Assembly, had also declared themselves in favour of a more conciliatory position.

93. In his investiture speech of 18 February 1958, the new Prime Minister made an appeal for the union of all Cameroonians. In April he made a tour of the Sanaga-Maritime Region, and in several speeches invited dissident elements of the population to return to normal life. His attitude was clearly stated in an address on 23 April at Ebolowa, in which he declared:

"If we wish to attain the objective which all Cameroonians have at heart, namely, the sovereignty of our country, we must without fail unite and work together with no ulterior motives. We may have different ideas, and different ideologies, but we have no right to disperse our efforts when the higher interests of the country are at stake.

"We must all do everything in our power to ensure that peace is fully restored. The day before yesterday my colleagues and I made a brief tour in the disturbed region of Sanaga-Maritime. Wherever we went, we repeated to the peoples of Sanaga-Maritime that the essential condition for our achievement of independence and sovereignty is that peace should reign in our country. If we all consider our ultimate goal to be the sovereignty of our country, I must repeat here what I said in Sanaga-Maritime: we cannot build an independent State of the Cameroons on the corpses of Cameroonians."

94. On 12 June, during the debate in the Legislative Assembly which led to the formal request for independence, Mr. Ahidjo said that if the members of the UPC would return to lawful ways, he was prepared to welcome them with open arms.

95. These appeals, made at a time when the French military activities were also having their effect, appeared to meet with some response. In the period from 1 January to 16 April, 124 UPC members had defected; between 16 April and 15 June the number of defectors rose to 230, and 82 of these were members of paramilitary units. Only a few of the defectors were arrested; the rest were able to return to the regrouped villages.

96. These developments were announced by the Prime Minister in a statement broadcast on 22 June. Mr. Ahidjo also announced that the Government, the Assembly and the various departments of the High Commissioner's Office had taken a number of measures to help the people of Sanaga-Maritime to begin a new life. Thus, a new region of Nyong-et-Kellé had been established, the administrative post of Makak had been made a subdivision, new administrative posts had been set up and several roads and tracks suitable for motor traffic were opened. In addition, provision was made in the third four-year plan adopted by the Legislative Assembly for the expenditure of 264 million francs CFA for capital development, 72 million francs for production and 22 million francs for the development of social services in the Sanaga-Maritime Region. Finally, by an order of 19 June, conditional release was granted to numbers of political prisoners.

97. Between June and August the situation improved, though somewhat slowly. While acts of terrorism

[13] See annex II, section I.

diminished greatly in violence and in number, they continued: there were seven in Sanaga-Maritime and eleven in Mungo. The number of defections from the UPC, which had increased appreciably from May to June, now followed an oscillating curve: 161 in June, 192 in July and 172 in August. In September, however, an important event radically altered the situation. On 13 September, Mr. Um Nyobé, General Secretary of the former UPC, who was generally regarded as the heart and soul of the movement, was killed by a patrol near Boumnyebel. His death was widely regretted even outside of the movement. The news of it was received with mixed emotions. Mr. Ahidjo, in a public statement, declared that although he disapproved of the violent and cruel methods employed by the UPC, he sincerely regretted that Um Nyobé's obstinacy had brought him to such a tragic end. He repeated that he was prepared to co-operate with the members of the UPC if they renounced violence and resumed legal methods of activity. Mr. Soppo Priso similarly declared in a public statement that he regarded Um Nyobé's death as a dramatic event for the Cameroons, which he said, with independence near at hand, had been awaiting more impatiently than ever the solution of its long domestic crisis and a national reconciliation in which Um Nyobé could have played an important part. The Paramount Chief of Eséka, which had been the most seriously troubled district, appealed to the members of the UPC to return to the law.

98. Within the rebellious movement, the death of Um Nyobé appeared to signal the end of the affair. The number of defections suddenly rose significantly. Two hundred and seventy-two persons defected in September, 607 in October and 406 in November. The following table, showing the number who gave themselves up in each month from January to November 1958, speaks for itself as to the rapid decline of the movement in the Sanaga-Maritime, and in the opinion not only of the authorities but also of many of the defectors with whom the Mission spoke, it indicates the collapse of the UPC organization within the Territory:

1958	*Defectors*	*1958*	*Defectors*
January	22	July	192
February	11	August	174
March	73	September	272
April	60	October	607
May	92	November	406
June	161		
		TOTAL	2,070

99. At the headquarters of the "pacification zone" at Eséka, the officer-in-command expressed to the Mission the belief that there were only 50 to 100 persons left in the forests and that the rebellion had virtually come to an end. The Mission learned elsewhere that the situation had also improved in the western areas of the Territory, although both in Mungo and the Bamiléké country sporadic acts of violence were still occurring as a result, according to the Mission's information, of forays by bandits hiding on the British side of the frontier. These disturbances, however, are regarded as distinct from the rebellion in the Sanaga-Maritime.

100. The cost of that rebellion had been high, not only in terms of the damage done by the rebels to the lives and property of their fellow Africans, but also in terms of the loss of lives among the rebels themselves. According to official information given to the Mission, their activities in the Sanaga-Maritime in the period from 5 September 1957 to 31 October 1958 resulted in seventy-five civilians killed, ninety wounded and ninety-one abducted, and approximately 200 houses set on fire. The rebels' casualties in the period from 1 January to 31 October 1958 were much higher, totalling 371 killed and 104 wounded. In addition, 882 were arrested and 195 firearms were seized.

101. The Mission considers it important to put the rebellion in proper perspective. It was confined entirely to the Sanaga-Maritime Region—only one of nineteen in the Territory as a whole—and almost exclusively to the Bassa people of the deep forests. There were perhaps two main factors which enabled the UPC to survive there for the three years that followed its dissolution by law. The first was the personality of Ruben Um Nyobé, who, it is widely believed, might well have become a prominent political leader of his country if he had not followed, and tragically persisted in, a course of violence to attain the objective which the Cameroons is now about to achieve without him and by constitutional action. The second factor was the relative poverty and under-development of the Bassa country and its peoples. They are now to receive special attention, as the Mission has shown, in economic and social planning, and with the return of order they are to be allowed to leave the regrouped villages, if they wish, and to be assisted to rebuild those which were destroyed to prevent their use by the rebels.

102. All the evidence made available to the Mission—and it was freely given by the French and Cameroons authorities and by men who had been in the leadership as well as in the rank and file of the dissolved party—inclines it to the belief that the UPC in its organized and militant form has now virtually ceased to exist. This was due in part to the military and police action taken against it, and in part to the revulsion of most Cameroonians against its use of violence; it was also due in part to the adoption by the population as a whole of the objectives of independence and unification which it had been the first openly to espouse. By the time of its final struggle it had been outstripped by the events which its initiative up to 1955 had without doubt helped to precipitate; its last battles were fought in an arena remote from the mainstream of the political evolution of the Cameroons; and with the death last September of its effective leader the disintegration of the movement was accelerated.

103. In their wake, the UPC and the measures taken to suppress it had left by the end of 1958, besides the rebels' own dead and those of their victims, hundreds of men who had served, were serving or were awaiting trial for criminal or political offences. They left also a legacy of troubled minds and a widespread belief, as the Mission will show in the next section of this report, that some gesture was still needed to erase the bitter memories and heal the wounds of the past three and a half years.

CHAPTER II

DETERMINATION OF THE FUTURE OF THE TRUST TERRITORY

Introduction

104. From the preceding part of this report it will be clear that the political and constitutional development of the Cameroons in the past two years has been dominated by three questions: the attainment of independence, the problem of the rebellious minority in the population, and the unification of the Territory with the Cameroons under British administration.

105. The Mission discussed these problems at length with the High Commissioner, with the representatives of the Government and all the committees and groups of the Legislative Assembly as well as with the majority of its individual members. In the regions which it visited, many traditional chiefs and representatives of municipal councils explained their views at length also. Moreover, through the hearings it granted and the petitions it received, it became acquainted with the views of a large number of individuals and organizations. Despite complaints which have been made by certain petitioners to the Trusteeship Council alleging that they could not approach the Mission, it must be stated that as far as time permitted, the Mission received freely and without interference hundreds of petitioners of every attitude and persuasion. In order that there should be no possible grounds for complaint the Mission on occasion suggested to the Cameroons or French officials that they absent themselves from the hearings. Some petitioners trekked for four or five days through the bush to present their views.[14]

106. Some explanation should first be given of the state of the political parties and groups at the time of the Mission's visit. The most important of these are the Mouvement de l'Union camerounaise, the Mouvement d'Action nationale du Cameroun (MANC) and the Parti des Démocrates camerounais, the Union sociale camerounaise (USC), the Evolution sociale camerounaise (ESOCAM), the Coordination des Indépendants camerounais (INDECAM) and the Bloc démocratique camerounais (BDC). The Mission also saw representatives of the four trade-union organizations in the Cameroons, namely, the Confédération générale kamerunaise du Travail (CGKT), the Force ouvrière (FO), the Union des Syndicats autonomes du Cameroun (USAC) and the Confédération camerounaise des Syndicats chrétiens (CCSC), and of many traditional associations, such as the Union des Associations traditionnelles du Cameroun (UNATRACAM), the Ngondo and the Kumsze. Many former members or sympathizers of the Union des populations du Cameroun (UPC) got into touch with the Mission, either in their individual capacity or on behalf of organizations that they had recently established, such as the Comité de regroupement des forces nationalistes (CRFN), the Comité pour la réconciliation et l'amnistie, and the Union nationale des mères camerounaises. The High Commissioner's office had announced that all persons would be free to approach the Mission in their individual capacities or as representatives of legally constituted organizations; and the Prime Minister had informed the Mission of the Government's endorsement of that position, and had emphasized that it applied even to Cameroonians who wished to defend the thesis of the UPC.

107. Three of the political parties have parliamentary groups in the Legislative Assembly: the Mouvement de l'Union camerounaise, whose parliamentary group numbers thirty-four members and affiliates, the Parti des Démocrates camerounais, whose group amounted to twenty members two years ago but now consists of twelve only, and the Mouvement d'Action nationale, with a group of eight members. From the popular demonstrations organized on the occasion of the Mission's visit to various places and from the views expressed by the traditional or elected representatives of the people, the Mission has reason to believe that, since their establishment, these parties have succeeded in gaining important bodies of supporters among the people and that they are the most influential parties in the Territory. The Mouvement de l'Union camerounaise, which includes among its members the present Prime Minister and the most important traditional chiefs of the north, exercises a preponderant influence in that part of the Territory and is extending its organization into the south. The Mouvement d'Action nationale, led by several important politicians, such as Mr. Soppo Priso and Mr. Charles Assalé, has secured solid support throughout the south-west, especially in the Ntem and Wouri Regions. Although the influence of the Parti des Démocrates camerounais seems to have declined somewhat since its leader, Mr. Mbida, resigned from the office of Prime Minister in February 1958, it apparently has considerable support in some regions in the south, especially in the Nyong-et-Sanaga Region.

108. None of the political parties established before the elections of 23 December 1956, the most important of which are the ESOCAM, the INDECAM, the USC and the BDC,[15] have a parliamentary group in the Assembly, although Mr. Charles Okala, the leader of the USC, is a member of the Government as well as the Assembly. The influence of these parties, which was limited to certain areas in the south, seems to have declined considerably in the past two years in favour of the parliamentary parties formed since the elections.

109. As far as the illegal UPC is concerned, the Mission has given in the first part of this report its opinion that,

[14] Further details of the hearings are to be found in annex I.

[15] For the full names of these parties, see paragraph 106. The Mission found most of the political parties, associations, institutions and even commercial enterprises better known in the Territory by their initials or other abbreviations than by their full names.

as an organized movement within the Territory, it has now virtually disappeared. At the time of the Mission's visit, its "resistance" movement seemed to be coming to an end. During its stay in the Territory the Mission had occasion to talk to many former UPC members and followers, and the information it received from themgave it the impression that the UPC no longer represented a significant political force in the Territory. A number of the party leaders perished in the struggle and many others defected. Some who had been associated with it—such as Mr. Bebey-Eyidi, who was now forming a new political movement, and Mr. Théodore Mahi Matip, who was Um Nyobé's right-hand man during the resistance but defected after the latter's death—were advocating a general reconciliation.

110. The Mission found that as a political organization the UPC had essentially been reduced to a movement "in exile". The external manifestations of the UPC were regarded with mixed feelings by the several former party members to whom the Mission talked. Some of them openly denounced the "exiles" for fleeing instead of continuing the struggle on the spot, while others, less hostile, considered that after three years' absence they had lost contact with realities in the Cameroons. For example, Mr. Matip stated that the UPC spokesmen outside the country did not seem to be well informed of what was happening in the Cameroons and that, should he have the occasion, he would like to meet them in order to inform them of the present state of affairs and to persuade them to adopt a more realistic attitude. Similarly, Mr. Bebey-Eyidi considered that the people overseas had to some extent lost contact with the true facts in the Cameroons, and he expressed the hope that they might return to the country.

111. Of the large number of former UPC members who had remained within the law, some took no further part in political activities or had revised their political views. Nevertheless, there were others who had remained faithful to the party's programme and they may still constitute a reserve of political energy. Recently an attempt had been made to regroup these and other elements in a new political organization, the Comité pour le regroupement des forces nationalistes (CRFN), founded by Mr. Bebey-Eyidi with objectives similar to those of the former UPC programme but with the purpose of opposing the present Government by legal means. It is as yet too early to assess the importance of this movement, which was founded only at the beginning of last November, but it does appear to have secured some support in the Douala Region and it may be said to offer a means of filling the vacuum left by the disintegration of the UPC. The CGKT, with a membership reported by the Administering Authority in 1957 at 14,000, principally in Douala, has similar political objectives.

112. All the elements supporting the former UPC programme have the common trait of referring to the Cameroons as "Kamerun". They sent a very large number of petitions to the Mission. This was probably an organized campaign, for the petitions were mostly drafted according to a common pattern and sent to the Mission in packets. Many of the petitions were not signed and, when they were, there was naturally no way of checking the authenticy of the signatures. Some tens of thousands of petitions were thus received, but for the reasons stated above the Mission does not regard the total as providing adequate proof of the real number of the petitioners. Indeed, the Mission does not think that the number of people still faithful to the UPC is now large, except in the urban area of Douala.

113. In the following section, the Mission will describe as clearly as possible the positions taken by the Cameroons Government, the Legislative Assembly and the various organizations in the Territory [16] on the questions of independence, reconciliation and reunification. Although these problems are closely connected and although they were nearly always raised simultaneously in the talks in which it took part, the Mission proposes to examine them separately for greater clarity, and at the same time to give its own views on them.

Attainment of independence

114. The main events which had led the elected institutions of the Cameroons to the point of notifying the United Nations, through and with the agreement of the Administering Authority, of its desire to become independent on 1 January 1960 were known to the Visiting Mission, even if unofficially, at the start of its journey to West Africa. In Paris on 25 October 1958 it received confirmation of them from the representatives of the Administering Authority.

115. When it was already in Africa, and only a few days away from the start of its visit to the Cameroons under French administration, it received by telegram the additional terms of reference contained in resolution 1924 (S-IX) adopted by the Trusteeship Council on 7 November 1958. By that resolution, which referred in its preamble both to the resolution adopted by the Legislative Assembly of the Cameroons on 24 October and to a statement which had been made in the Council by the representative of France (940th meeting), the Mission was requested to set forth its views on "the procedure for organizing the consultation which will enable the people of the Cameroons under French administration to express, at the appropriate time, their wishes concerning their future and concerning the termination of trusteeship upon the attainment of full national independence in 1960".

116. If the Mission had felt bound to give to those additional terms of reference their literal meaning, and to proceed on the assumption that the Trusteeship Council had decided in advance to recommend that a consultation of the population should be held, it would have found itself in a difficult position in the Trust Territory. Its earliest contacts with representatives of the Government and of the principal political groups in the Legislative Assembly gave rise to expressions of strong disagreement with the view that a consultation was necessary concerning the future of the Territory determined to become independent in just over a year.

[16] The memoranda submitted to the Mission by the most important organizations are reproduced in annex III.

117. Subsequently, however, the Mission was able to examine both the statement of the representative of the Administering Authority referred to in its additional terms of reference and, more important, the latter statement made in the Fourth Committee which indicated that the views of the Administering Authority on the question of a consultation had been substantially modified. Before the Fourth Committee on 28 October 1958 its representative had declared the intention of affirming in a memorandum to the General Assembly, with the complete agreement of the Cameroons Assembly and Government, "its desire that trusteeship should be ended through the accession of the Cameroons to complete independence after consultation of the Cameroons population, under United Nationss upervision and under conditions of which the principle might be decided by the General Assembly and the specific forms of application determined by the Trusteeship Council, account being taken of the report of the Visiting Mission which is to go the Cameroons in November next".[17] After the Trusteeship Council had adopted the additional terms of reference for the Mission, however, the representative of France submitted to the General Assembly on 12 November 1958 a memorandum [18] on the subject which contained no reference to a consultation but put forward the following proposal:

> "In order to avoid any delay in the realization of the wishes of the Cameroonian people, the Government of the French Republic proposes that the Trusteeship Council should be requested by the General Assembly to adopt, having in mind the report of the Visiting Mission, all appropriate steps to enable the General Assembly, during its fourteenth session, to make a decision concerning the termination of the Trusteeship System simultaneously with the attainment of independence by the Cameroons on 1 January 1960."

118. Under these circumstances, although it did not receive from the Trusteeship Council any further modification of its terms of reference, the Mission has felt able to examine on its merits the question of the termination of the Trusteeship Agreement and the procedures which may be regarded as suited to it in the light of the actual conditions prevailing in the Cameroons.

119. The position of the Cameroons Government on the matter is in fact defined by the resolution which the Legislative Assembly adopted on 24 October (see para. 82 above) on the Government's proposal. In brief, the Government with the support of the Assembly asks that the Cameroons should attain independence on 1 January 1960 and that the Trusteeship Agreement for the Territory should be determined on that date.

120. In his statement of 18 October before the Legislative Assembly, the Prime Minister explained that the date of 1 January 1960 had been chosen because there were certain formalities to be carried out in connexion with the termination ousteeship, wf the hich rtwas a necessary condition for independence. The trusteeship could not be terminated without the agreement of the United Nations, an agreement contingent upon the results of an inquiry to ascertain the opinion of the country.

121. Mr. Ahidjo added at that point that he assumed that the United Nations would recommend among other things that a referendum should be held. Moreover, that his primary concern was to respect the wishes of the United Nations was apparent from the following passage in his statement:

> "If you wish it, and if the country confirms your position, the Cameroons will be independent on 1 january 1960. But your Government will have to do everything possible to ensure that the procedure for the termination of trusteeship is carried through with energy. For we must not forget that our neighbour, British Togoland, awaited the decision of the United Nations for over two years.
>
> "In submitting the Government's programme in this field, I feel that I am doing everything duty requires of me in responding to the deepest feelings of the country; for we cannot possibly achieve independence in a period shorter than the one I am proposing. I am sure you do not wish to dispense with international rules. The independent Cameroons will have to join the community of nations. It will have to be able to count on the assistance of the great bodies established by the United Nations, and it will have to maintain with all States such commercial, cultural, diplomatic and other relations as are likely to promote its welfare. We must therefore act with due respect for the rules laid down by the United Nations which, let us not forget, has been our protector."

122. However, after his attendance at the General Assembly in November 1958, when he participated in the Fourth Committee's debates on the Cameroons, he returned to the Territory feeling that there were no precedents which imposed on it the necessity for a special consultation. In the talks which he had with the Mission, he categorically rejected the idea of a referendum on the question of the Territory's attainment of independence, considering it to be unnecessary and unacceptable, since the wishes of the population had already been validly expressed through the Legislative Assembly and the Cameroonian Government.

123. Accordingly, the Government's attitude at the time of the Mission's visit may be summarized in the following three points: first, that the Cameroons should accede to independence on 1 January 1960; secondly, that the Trusteeship Agreement should be terminated concurrently with the attainment of independence; and, thirdly, that no referendum need be held on the question of independence.

124. The Mission found this position to be supported by the great majority of the members of the Cameroons Legislative Assembly. It should be recalled that the resolution of 24 October 1958 was adopted by 46 votes to 7. All the deputies whom the Mission met in the Territory subscribed to the government programme,

[17] See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirteenth Session, Fourth Committee, Annexes*, agenda item 13, document A/C.4/381.

[18] *Ibid.*, document A/C.4/388.

with the exception of ten members of the Démocrates camerounais group. These ten members, under the leadership of their chairman, Mr. Mbida, the former Prime Minister—whose position had changed from that described earlier in the report (see para. 73)—submitted a petition to the Mission at Yaoundé, requesting the United Nations " to declare null and void the resolution of 12 June 1958, with the logical consequence of rejecting outright the draft Statute and the annexed conventions deriving therefrom, including the resolution of 24 October 1958, and to invite the Administering Authority to organize without delay a popular referendum under United Nations supervision, in order that the people themselves may give their views legally and freely on the option of the Cameroons for the termination of the trusteeship ". It went on to request the United Nations, " should the said resolution be reaffirmed despite all these violations, the option of the Cameroons for independence on the termination of the trusteeship having thus been recognized by it and no other procedure being contemplated (referendum ruled out), to order the proclamation of the independence of the Cameroons in the immediate future, with the termination of the trusteeship ".

125. Most of those interviewed by the Mission during its stay in the Territory, however, stated that they endorsed the position taken by the Government and by the Legislative Assembly. For example, the Mouvement de l'Union camerounaise, in the memorandum which it submitted to the Mission, stated:

" It goes without saying that the present Government, which was set up by us and which is headed by Admadou Ahidjo, our General Chairman, has our full confidence and is unquestionably qualified to represent not only our party but also the people.

" For this reason we unanimously approve the action of the Government and the Legislative Assembly in adopting a resolution calling for the independence of the Cameroons on 1 January 1960 and for the termination of the trusteeship on that date.

" In our opinion, our accession to independence and the simultaneous termination of the trusteeship should not form the subject of a popular referendum, since the duly-constituted authorities in the Cameroons, namely, the Government and the Assembly, have in our name expressed their full agreement with these proposals.

" France, the Administering Authority, in full agreement with us and thereby acknowledging the extent of our organizational development, has acted in conjunction with us in requesting the termination of the trusteeship.

" As there is thus complete agreement between the Government, the Legislative Assembly and France, there is no point in holding any kind of popular referendum."

126. The Mouvement d'Action nationale, which expressed similar views, also pointed out that the Cameroons would have new burdens to bear and that its economic situation was not such as to allow it to indulge in " unnecessary, expensive and pointless referendums ".

127. A few groups urged that independence should be proclaimed at an earlier date than 1 January 1960. One of these groups, the Mouvement des Démocrates camerounais, asked for immediate proclamation of independence and in the course of several interviews with the Mission, some members of this party said that it was their wish that independence should be proclaimed on 1 January 1959. Immediate independence was also the aim of numerous former members of the UPC. The CGKT trade-union movement also stated that it preferred 13 December 1959 as the date for the proclamation of independence, because 1 January was a date of no historical significance whereas 13 December was the anniversary of the adoption of the Trusteeship Agreement. In recording these views the Mission could not fail to note that the differences of opinion related only to the timing of independence and that there was no body of opinion in favour of any objective other than independence.

128. Some organizations, such as the INDECAM, the Douala branch of the ESOCAM, the CGKT, the FO, the USAC, the UNATRACAM and the CRFN,[19] called for the immediate dissolution of the present Legislative Assembly and for the holding, under United Nations supervision, of new elections for a constitutent assembly. Several of these organizations also requested that the new constitution should be submitted to the people for its approval by a referendum, to be held under United Nations supervision, before the attainment of independence by the Territory. The reason usually given for dissolving the present Legislative Assembly was that it did not truly represent opinion in the country because of the circumstances in which the elections of 23 December 1956 had taken place, in particular the " atmosphere of terror " which had prevailed at that time and the high percentage of people who had abstained from voting.

129. The Government of the Cameroons, together with most of the deputies of the Legislative Assembly, categorically rejected the idea of dissolving the Assembly, except in the event of the Cameroons being reunified. Its views on this question were made clear by the Prime Minister when he reaffirmed what he had said before the Fourth Committee on 14 November 1958 (800th meeting). He declared that the existing Assembly had been freely elected, on the basis of universal suffrage, by nearly one million voters in a country with about 3,200,000 inhabitants. Since women were voting for the first time, there was a record degree of participation, very high for Africa and higher than was sometimes the case in old-established democracies. The electoral campaign had hinged entirely on the question of the development and independence of the Cameroons. He therefore saw no need for a new consultation of any kind to ascertain the opinion of the Cameroonian people concerning their future. They had been consulted already on the political system which they wished to adopt on the termination of trusteeship, and the Legislative Assembly, by its motion of 24 October, had plainly informed the Administering Authority of

[19] For their full names see paragraph 106.

the choice of the people. The Assembly, moreover, had been in office for less than two years of its five-year term. When their brothers in the Cameroons under British administration had chosen to join them, they would no doubt be moved by common consent to hold further elections. In any case, now that they were on the eve of independence, they believed themselves to be capable of taking any steps which they might consider desirable as regards their internal political life.

130. Although the Cameroons Government therefore sees no occasion for the holding of a new general election, it appreciates the need for correcting as soon as possible the situation in the Sanaga-Maritime, the area most affected by disorders at the time of the elections in 1956 (see paras. 58-61). The disturbances in this region prevented a number of polling booths from being opened, and only 14 per cent of the registered electors voted. Four seats have remained vacant, because two candidates for the post of deputy had been murdered the day before the poll, and the election of two other candidates was declared invalid by the Administrative Disputes Board of the Territory. They appealed to the French Conseil d'État against this decision but up to the time of the Mission's visit that body had not yet given a ruling on the subject. The Mission was informed by the High Commissioner's Office that the Conseil d'État would in all probability determine the question at an early date and that the Cameroons Government would then be in a position to come to a decision about the holding of by-elections in Sanaga-Maritime, both for the vacant seats and, if need be, for the others. The Prime Minister stated that the Government did not oppose the holding of elections in the Sanaga-Maritime, provided that the requisite degree of order had been restored in the region and that there was no longer any reason to fear that the elections might be surrounded by disturbances there. He would also prefer that the elections should not be held in the presence of the French military forces, whose withdrawal depended on the newly established calm in the region being maintained.

131. Some groups not represented in the Legislative Assembly also pressed, as the Mission has remarked, for the adoption of a new constitution by popular consultation before independence was proclaimed. The Mission gained the impression in the course of its discussions with members of the Government and of the Cameroons Assembly that the political leaders had not yet taken up a definite position on this matter. Some thought that with a suitable further modification of the new Statute, with effect from 1 January 1960, the Cameroons would be able to attain full and complete independence in favourable circumstances and that the question of the new constitution was not therefore of any urgency for the time being. Some of those who took that view, including the Prime Minister, also felt that, if the Cameroonians under British administration decided to join them, it would then be necessary to determine the constitutional régime which would obtain in a unified Cameroons and that it was consequently preferable not to take a decision on the constitutional issue forthwith. There were other leaders, however, who felt it would be well to have a new constitution adopted in any case before independence was proclaimed. There were also differences of opinion about the procedure to be followed in drawing up the constitution. Some thought that it was the Government which should prepare a draft constitution for submission to the Assembly; others, however, held that the Legislative Assembly should set itself up as a Constituent Assembly. Finally, there were those who saw no objection to submitting the constitution to the people for their approval by means of a referendum if that were generally desired, but most of them, reflecting in this the Government's attitude, considered that that was an internal question which should be settled by the duly-constituted Cameroons bodies and not a matter for any intervention, much less for direct supervision, by the United Nations.

132. The Mission found, moreover, that those relatively few who were ready to see a referendum held on the constitution under United Nations supervision did so in some cases on the basis of false precedents. The fact that a plebiscite had been held under United Nations supervision in Togoland under British administration before that Territory was united with the former Gold Coast to form the independent State of Ghana, that elections had been held under United Nations supervision in Togoland under French administration before the General Assembly decided to terminate the Trusteeship Agreement in respect of that Territory in 1960, and that former French Guinea had become independent following the referendum of 28 September last on the new French Constitution, had given them the impression that in order to achieve independence it was necessary to hold a plebiscite or a referendum or supervised elections. As these groups and persons were not in favour either of supervised elections or of a referendum on the question of independence, they accepted and even advocated the idea of a referendum on the constitution.

133. In giving its own opinions as to the necessity or desirability of a plebiscite or other special form of consultation as part of the procedure for the termination of trusteeship over the Cameroons, the Visiting Mission would like briefly to reiterate the salient facts of the situation. A new statute granting the Cameroons a very large degree of self-government, the draft of which was prepared by the French and Cameroons authorities in a series of negotiations and later approved by the Legislative Assembly of the Cameroons, entered into force on 1 January 1959. The statute contains a preamble in which the French Government recognizes the option of the Cameroons people in favour of independence and affirms that the new institutions mark the final stage before the termination of trusteeship which will take place in the manner prescribed by the United Nations Charter and the Trusteeship Agreement. The French Government, recognizing that the Cameroonian people are capable of assuming the responsibilities of independence, has proposed to the United Nations with the support of the Cameroons Legislative Assembly and Government that a decision should be made concerning the termination of trusteeship simultaneously with the attainment of independence by the Cameroons on 1 January 1960.

134. In the Mission's opinion, the steps that must be taken before deciding on the termination of trusteeship

are essentially to verify that the final goal of the International Trusteeship System is being attained. The terms of the new Statute and the clarifying provisions in its preamble afford no grounds for doubt that the independence which the Cameroons will enjoy on the termination of the trusteeship will be full and complete. Moreover, the manner in which the Legislative Assembly and the Government have exercised the powers transferred to them, and the economic and social development of the Territory, encourage the Mission to believe, with the Administering Authority, that the Cameroonians have the capacity to assume the responsibilities of independence.

135. The Mission must emphasize, furthermore, that there is no evidence of any desire in the Territory for an objective short of independence. All the Cameroonians with whom the Mission spoke stated, often emphatically, that they desired independence. The Mission did not hear a single dissenting voice on that subject, nor was any alternative to independence proposed to it. It accordingly considers itself justified in concluding that the overwhelming majority of the population desires independence. There is some difference of opinion among the population regarding the date of the proclamation of independence: some approve the date of 1 January 1960, which was the Government's choice, while others advocate an earlier date. But, on the basis of the information the Mission was able to obtain in the Territory, it seems safe to suggest that the latter constitute only a small minority. In any case the Prime Minister has made it clear that the reason for a delay of not less than twelve months is to give the United Nations time to complete the procedures for the termination of the trusteeship.

136. *For the reasons given, the Mission has concluded that the request that the Territory should become independent on 1 January 1960, which was approved in the Legislative Assembly of the Cameroons by a large majority, is also supported by the great majority of the population. It therefore considers that it is not necessary to consult the population on this subject before the termination of the trusteeship.*

137. With regard to the suggestion made by some that a new constitution should be prepared and submitted for the approval of the people in a referendum under United Nations supervision before independence was proclaimed, the Mission considers that the constitution of the new independent State is a purely internal question which the institutions of the Territory can and should determine for themselves. It will be for them to decide whether a new constitution should be drafted before or after the Territory's accession to independence and to determine the procedures by which the constitution is to be approved. The Mission is convinced that the institutions of the Cameroons will resolve this matter in the manner best suited to the circumstances of the Territory.

138. Concerning the request of certain groups for the dissolution of the present Legislative Assembly and the holding of new elections for a new Legislative Assembly or for a constituent assembly, the Mission considers that the essential question is the extent to which the present Assembly is representative. To determine that question, it is necessary first to consider the conditions in which the elections of 23 December 1956 were held and then to assess as far as possible the degree of confidence and popularity which the Assembly now enjoys. The Mission has described the situation at some length earlier in its report, and it draws attention again to that account (see paras. 58-61). The salient facts are that the elections were held only two years ago by universal suffrage; that the successful candidates stood for the independence of the Cameroons; and that the election campaign and the voting itself proceeded normally in all except a very small section of the Territory. It was only in parts of the Wouri (Douala) and Sanaga-Maritime Regions, containing hardly 9 per cent of the population, that the abstention campaign of the UPC could be said to have had any appreciable results. Moreover, in the case of Douala, the men who were elected belong to the political movement which has always been most closely associated with serious efforts at reconciliation with the UPC, and in the case of the Sanaga-Maritime, which contains the only constituencies whose representation is genuinely open to uncertainty, elections will have to be held to fill the two vacant seats and possibly also to fill the other two in which the validity of the results has been the subject of procedures not yet terminated.

139. An examination of the conditions in which the elections of 23 December 1956 took place and of their results does not, in the Mission's judgement, give justification for any claim that the composition of the Legislative Assembly does not reflect popular opinion, except possibly in the Sanaga-Maritime. The Mission thinks it important to consider also the development of the political situation since the elections. The programme for the future of the Cameroons, initiated by the Goverment and adopted by the Assembly, represents the highest objective of the Trusteeship System and has received the support of the majority of the population. The opposition to the present Assembly comes from a few groups which are politically active but which, in the Mission's opinion, represent so far only a minority of the population; they do not dispute the objective of independence; and another chance at the polls will come to them in the normal course of events. It is important to recognize the identity of these groups. Among them are former members and supporters of the UPC who clearly desire to vindicate the UPC's unsuccessful campaign for a national boycott of the 1956 elections.

140. The Mission would like to point out, too, for the benefit of those to whom the example of Togoland under French administration comes to mind—and it found some of these in the Cameroons—that the present situation in the Cameroons is quite different from that obtaining in Togoland before the elections of 27 April 1958. The Togoland Assembly of that time had been elected by limited suffrage, whereas the present Cameroons Assembly was elected by universal suffrage; more importantly, the party in power in Togoland sought an objective short of independence, while the opposition parties demanded independence. No such issue exists in the Cameroons.

141. *The Mission is of the opinion that on the whole the present Legislative Assembly is representative in character. There are certainly insufficient grounds, in the Mission's view, for the holding of new general elections under United Nations supervision before the termination of the trusteeship. Furthermore, it sees no reason why fresh elections to the Legislative Assembly should be a pre-condition of the attainment of independence. It must be remembered that it was the present Legislative Assembly and Government which demanded and obtained from France the commitment to grant independence on 1 January 1960. It would be ironic if their representative character were to be called in question.*

142. *Nevertheless, for the reasons already stated, the Mission came to the conclusion, which it placed before the Cameroons authorities, that it would be desirable to rectify as soon as possible the situation in the Sanaga-Maritime by means of elections both to fill the two vacant seats there and also, if need be, to confirm or alter the representation of the other two. It was given to understand that this would be one of the first preoccupations of the Cameroons Government under the Statute which has newly entered into force. The Mission also believes that the Government appreciates the need for all elements of the population of the Sanaga-Maritime to be able to take part freely in the by-elections, and that it is convinced of the desirability of putting into effect before the elections its proposed amnesty measures, which are discussed below.*

Problem of reconciliation

143. A legacy of uneasiness in the minds of many of the political leaders and people in general appeared to the Mission to have been left behind by the long sequence of events which saw the dissolution of the UPC, the arrest and prosecution of many of its followers, the resurgence of the movement in an attempt at organized rebellion, and the military operation which was judged necessary finally to suppress it.

144. There was inevitably a wide range of opinion about these matters. On the one hand there was the understandable bitterness of those people—all of them Africans—who had been the victims of acts of terrorism and who had lost to the rebels members of their families, their houses or their possessions. They were angry at those who had directed and perpetrated the acts from which they had suffered, and the Mission found relatively few people in the Territory who believed that criminal offences should go unpunished; yet many even of those directly affected now offered forgiveness to those who had been simply "led astray". The few who would pardon all offenders without exception were at the other extreme of the range of opinion; some of them laid the whole of the blame at the door of the Administering Authority, and also pretended that even the most brutal acts of African against African and the most reckless destruction of property had been committed in the name of the independence of the Cameroons.

145. There was a middle ground of opinion, broadest of all, which seemed to be convinced that some gesture of clemency needed to be made so that bitterness and controversy might be set aside and the country allowed to resume the wholly normal life which would be the best possible augury for the coming of independence. That feeling was concentrated in the demands for a political amnesty which the Mission heard and read at almost every turn in the southern half of the Cameroons.

146. The Mission has recounted in its report (paras. 70-72 above) the history of the question of amnesty in its purely legal sense. Until 1 January 1959, the power of amnesty fell within the exclusive competence of the French authorities, and on 17 February 1958 the French Parliament adopted an amnesty law of carefully considered and indeed limited scope. This act provided that the amnesty might be extended, by decree of the French Government, to persons prosecuted or convicted for acts committed in the Territory during the "events of May 1955" or in the incidents which preceded them; for acts committed during or in connexion with labour or electoral compaign disputes prior to 2 January 1956; and for breaches of the press law committed before 2 January 1956. The amnesty could be extended only to persons sentenced or liable to penalties of deprivation of liberty for twenty years or less—that is, it could not be extended to persons guilty of wilful murder. An application for amnesty must be made by the person concerned within one year from the date of publication of the act or from the date on which his conviction became final. For the application of these measures, the act provided for the establishment of an amnesty commission.

147. However, the Act of 17 February 1958 had no important effect on the subsequent course of events. The amnesty commission was not established until 5 August, and although measures were taken to bring the provisions of the law to the knowledge of the persons concerned, only fifteen applications for amnesty had been received by it at the time of the Mission's visit. In this connexion, the High Commissioner's office pointed out that the reason why the number of applications was not greater was that there were probably only a score of persons still in prison as a result of the incidents of May 1955 to which the amnesty act applied. All of the others had already been released from prison, and although an amnesty would allow their convictions to be expunged from the record, they had not tried to take advantage of it.

148. The High Commissioner's Office, acknowledging that the amnesty law had been criticized as too restrictive, pointed out to the Mission that amnesty could only be granted for past events, and that the troubles of 1956, 1957 and 1958 in the Sanaga-Maritime were only just coming to an end; and that the Mbida government and the Assembly at the time had opposed even the voting of the law of 17 February 1958. Moreover, there had been an "amnesty of fact" as a result of the offer of the present Prime Minister, supported by the High Commissioner, in April 1958 to pardon all who had not committed criminal offences. Of 1,664 persons who had "rallied" by 31 October,[20] only 104 had been subjected to warrants of arrest and 35 of these sent before the courts; the remaning 1,550 had been left in freedom. In addition, conditional releases, which could be granted to prisoners who had served half their terms, had been given as a means of speeding up

[20] The total, as shown in paragraph 98 above, is now more than 2,000.

the liberation of a certain number of persons who had been convicted for crimes and offences committed for political motives.

149. The Mission was given figures showing the number of persons who had been convicted since 1955 for crimes committed for political reasons or declared as such. These fell into two categories: the lesser crimes known as *délits* which come within the jurisdiction of the magistrates' courts, and the more serious offences (*crimes*) punishable by the higher courts. From 1955 until the end of October 1958, a total of 2,021 persons were convicted of *délits* committed for political reasons—essentially acts interpreted by the courts as "reconstitution of a dissolved association" but including, according to the Mission's information, common crimes such as theft, pillage, house-burning and assault which their authors claimed to have been politically motivated. The number of convictions for the more serious offences (*crimes*) committed for political motives, or declared as such, was 14 in 1955-1957, to which can be added, among others, the results of two important series of trials in 1958: that relating to the murder of two candidates for election in the Sanaga-Maritime in 1956 (30 convictions, including 9 death sentences) and of a Bamiléké deputy in 1957 (51 convictions, including 7 death sentences). On 30 September 1958, there were 859 persons in prison awaiting trial for *crimes* and *délits* of a political nature. By that time only 438 of those previously sentenced were still in prison: 29 more were due for release by the end of 1958, 295 in 1959, 55 in 1960 and the remainder in the following two years.

150. Those who were demanding a total and unconditional amnesty—as against an amnesty which would not pardon the most serious crimes—were also, for the most part, those who were most opposed in other respects to the present Government. They included members of the Parti des Démocrates camerounais and the trade unions, the UNATRACAM; and many former members of the UPC, both those who stayed in the Territory and those who fled across the border. In submitting its own request the CGKT trade-union organization argued that the existing law was subject to a fairly large number of restrictions and had come too late to achieve its true purpose, namely, to restore calm in the country. The leaders of the trade-union organization maintained that it was the Administering Authority's policy which had led the country into "the present impasse". They requested the Mission to do everything in its power to enable the Cameroons Government to grant a general and unconditional amnesty for political acts committed between 1955 and 1958; after the amnesty, moreover, the present Legislative Assembly should be dissolved.

151. Besides asking for an amnesty, the CGKT, the UNATRACAM, and a number of former members of the UPC called for the abrogation of the decree of 13 July 1955 dissolving the UPC and its women's and youths' affiliates, and the withdrawal of French troops from the Territory.

152. Those advocating a conditional amnesty—one which would cover all but the most serious offences—included most of the political parties, the Mouvement d'Action nationale, the Mouvement de l'Union camerounaise, the USC and the INDECAM. The Mouvement d'Action nationale was one of the first organizations in the Territory to advocate a very broad amnesty in respect of political activities. In point of fact many petitions which the members of this movement addressed to the Mission asked for a general amnesty in respect of all political activities engaged in since May 1955. In reply to questions asked by the Mission, however, they specified that there must be no amnesty in respect of serious criminal offences, or, to be more exact, premeditated murders.

153. The Mouvement de l'Union camerounaise, the Prime Minister's party, based in the north, also asked for a conditional amnesty but of narrower scope than that advocated by the Action nationale. Its Executive Committee advanced the following arguments in support:

"With regard to the plan for an amnesty, we have full confidence in the Legislative Assembly, which is to take a decision on this matter after 1 January 1959, the date on which the administration of justice, up to then in the hands of the Government of the French Republic, is to be handed over to the Cameroonian Government.

"Even though it is conceivable that some of those responsible for the incidents which have been taking place in the Cameroons since 1955 could be regarded as misguided people who might be entitled to a pardon, there are others who have been guilty of crimes against their brethren; it is only right that the criminal law should be made applicable to such people.

"To wipe the slate clean would only make for a recurrence of the same incidents. It is important to establish who is responsible, to pardon those who have committed no crime and to insist on the others being made subject to the impartial justice of the courts in the normal way."

154. There seemed also to be among the population of the Sanaga-Maritime itself a strong sentiment in favour of a conditional amnesty. When the Mission visited the regrouped villages of this region, where it spoke to many victims of acts of terrorism as well as to many others who had come out of the "resistance" movement, it was welcomed by the population with numbers of banners bearing, most frequently, such inscriptions as: "An amnesty for the misguided; punishment for the criminals". This summed up most of the statements made to the Mission, and the petitions received by it, in the last important redoubt of the UPC.

155. There is no question but that the history of the UPC from May of 1955 onwards constituted a painful episode in the history of the Cameroons, even though its direct effects were limited to a relatively small part of the population. Many hundreds of lives[21] were lost, considerable material damage was caused, and the repercussions on the moral and political life of the country were widespread. In the circumstances it was understandable that the amnesty question should have become one of the chief concerns of the people, and especially the politically active people, of the southern areas of the Cameroons. It semed to be regarded as one of the first matters on which the Government and the Legislative Assembly were expected to take action under the new responsibilities to be transferred to them by the revised Statute taking effect on 1 January 1959.

156. Although for some the grant of a general amnesty would no doubt be represented as a political victory, and for others it may have meant no more than a slogan, the demand for it also reflected, in the Mission's view, a general feeling that on the eve of achieving independence, and in order to devote all energy to the new responsibilities which would devolve on it, the population must unite and thus avoid a revival of the violent dissensions of the past. It was generally realized that the time for recriminations had passed, and it was widely felt that a positive gesture in the form of a general political amnesty offered the best means for a return to calm. The Mission came to the conclusion that a broad amnesty granted now could in fact fulfil two important purposes: firstly, in allowing its direct beneficiaries to return more rapidly to normal life; and secondly, in serving, for the Cameroons as a whole, as a gesture symbolizing an opportunity for reconciliation among its people and for unity in their approach to independence.

157. Under the new Statute which transfers all internal responsibilities to the Cameroons, including organization of the judiciary and maintenance of public order, the amnesty question fell within the jurisdiction of the Cameroonian authorities alone as from 1 January 1959. The Government's position, as stated before that date by the Prime Minister, was essentially that it wished all Cameroonians to be reconciled and was ready accordingly to take amnesty measures of a broad nature. It considered, however, "that amnesty, before becoming a matter of law, must be born in the heart and that the spirit of reconciliation cannot be imposed from without but must arise from the steadfast resolve of those concerned"; it expected from the former members of the UPC that they would respond in kind to any conciliatory gesture. The virtual end of the rebellion in the Sanaga-Maritime, and the massive surrender of the surviving rebels, appeared to the Mission to have largely satisfied that condition.

158. *The Mission became convinced, while still in the Territory, that a new amnesty measure, as broad as possible and as early as possilbe, would be an act of great wisdom. It was therefore glad to be assured by the Prime Minister that the Cameroons Government was preparing a bill which would provide for a broad amnesty and intended to lay it before the Legislative Assembly, which would be in session on 26 January 1959 for the first time under the new Statute.*

159. Before turning to another subject, the Mission feels that it should say a few words on the Cameroonians who are at present living "in exile". Many of those whom the Mission met in the Cameroons under British administration told the Mission that they wanted to return to their country, but hesitated to do so for fear of reprisals. In this connexion the Cameroons Government assured the Mission that those who had not committed criminal acts could go back without fear of prosecution. The Mission was able to see with its own eyes that many of those who had returned to legality in the Sanaga-Maritime were re-entering normal life. But the difficulty is to inform the refugees of this, and above all to convince them.

160. *The Mission suggests that the Cameroons Government should make suitable provisions within the framework of its policy of reconciliation for the repatriation of all Cameroonians who wish to return, and to that end, since the majority of the persons concerned are in the Cameroons under British administration, that it should seek the collaboration of the authorities in the latter Territory.*

Reunification of the two Cameroons

161. The reunification of the two Cameroons is an important feature of the programme of the Cameroons Government. The Prime Minister advocated it in his inaugural address on 19 February 1958; later, on 18 October 1958, he informed the Legislative Assembly that he intended to start conversations with the authorities in the Cameroons under British administration on the subject of reunification and that the question ought to be settled before the proclamation of independence.

162. During the conversations which the Mission had with him, the Prime Minister reaffirmed the desire of the Cameroonian people to see the two Cameroons reunified. He did not think it was necessary to organize a referendum on the question of reunification in the Cameroons under French administration because everyone there was of the same mind about it. The question should therefore be asked only in the Cameroons under British administration, where public opinion was divided on the issue. In connexion with the negotiations with the authorities in that Territory, the Prime Minister informed the Mission that he had sent a letter to the Premier of the Southern Cameroons, Mr. Endeley, on the subject, but had not by that time received a reply. With regard to the way in which reunification could be carried out, he stated that since the Cameroons under French administration would become independent on 1 January 1960, the inhabitants of the Cameroons under British administration would have to be consulted before that date on the question of whether they intended to join the former when it attained independence. Then, when both were emancipated, they would discuss in full freedom, as friends and fellow-countrymen, the practical and institutional problems of reunion. Mr. Ahidjo further informed the Mission that if the Cameroons under British administration decided to join his Territory, it was his view that the authorities of the two Territories should start negotiations immediately to decide on the nature of the institutions with which the unified Territory would be equipped.

163. The majority of the Legislative Assembly took the same line as the Government on this question. In

[21] The known casualties include the following: in the May 1955 disturbances, 26 killed; in the disturbances in the Sanaga-Maritime before and after the elections (18 December 1956 - 15 January 1957), 96 killed; in the resurgence of the rebels in the same region (5 September 1957 - 31 October 1958), 75 killed by the rebels and 371 rebels killed. These figures make a total of 568 persons killed.

its resolution of 12 June 1958 the Assembly confirmed the Prime Minister's statement that the Cameroonians wished to see the two Cameroons reunified. In its further resolution, adopted on 24 October, it again affirmed its attachment to the principle of reunification and requested that all the necessary arrangements should be made to enable the populations concerned to express their opinion on the question in all freedom before 1 January 1960. Later, when the Mission was visiting the Territory, many deputies emphasized the opinion that since all the Cameroonians in their Territory were of the same mind on the question of reunification, it was only the population of the other Cameroons that should be consulted on the issue.

164. The position adopted by the Government seemed to have the support of everyone in the Territory who had anything to say on the question. For example, the Mouvement de l'Union camerounaise asked that a consultation should be held in the Cameroons under British administration before 1 January 1960 in order to "permit our fellow-countrymen there to express their wishes about joining us". The Mouvement d'Action nationale spoke of reunification as a preliminary to independence. From many other groups and individuals the Mission received similar petitions asking for the reunification of the two Cameroons, and no one spoke against that objective. Most of those who asked for reunification agreed that there was no need to hold a referendum in their own Territory since everyone there was of the same mind about it. It was therefore the general opinion that the initiative rested with the people of the Cameroons under British administration, whose points of view are set forth in the Mission's report on that Territory.[22]

165. From the information gathered in the Territory, the Mission has every reason to believe that the wish expressed by the Legislative Assembly and the Government of the Cameroons regarding reunification of the two Territories has the support of the people as a whole. Nevertheless, it seemed to the Mission that with the exception of certain border peoples in the western areas, particularly in the Bamiléké and the Mungo Regions as well as in Douala and other parts of the coastal area, unification was not an essential goal for the people of the Cameroons under French administration. The general attitude seemed to be that because of geographical and historical affinities, it was desirable and just that the two Cameroons should be reunified, but that this reunification should not in any circumstances lead to a delay in the Territory's becoming independent.

166. *Because of the unanimity of views on reunification in the Cameroons under French administration, the Mission came to the conclusion that it would not be necessary to consult the people on the matter. The Mission noted that the position of the Cameroons under French administration on the subject, as stated by its elected representatives in particular, was that it was waiting for the other Cameroons to indicate in some formal manner, and preferably before 1 January 1960, its desire for unification. It noted also that if unification were thus decided upon in principle, it was the intention of the Government that the authorities of the two Territories should immediately begin discussions on the nature of the institutions of the unified Cameroons.*

[22] See *Official Records of the Trusteeship Council, Twenty-third Session, Supplement No. 2*, document T/1426.

Termination of trusteeship

167. The Visiting Mission may appropriately conclude its report on the Cameroons under French administration by returning to the point at which it began: the fact that the people, through their institutions based on universal adult suffrage, have freely decided that their Territory should become an independent State, have demanded and received the consent of the Administering Authority to that course, and have chosen 1 January 1960 as the date on which independence should be attained. In preparation for it they have entered on a transitional period of self-government in practically all internal matters, in accordance with the new Statute which took effect on 1 January 1959 and whose duration is specifically limited to one year.

168. The Mission has also amply demonstrated the representative character of the institutions which have taken the initiative in these matters, namely, the Legislative Assembly and the Government responsible to it. It has established that these institutions must be regarded as enjoying the support of the majority of the population; and that as far as the objectives of independence and reunification are concerned, this majority is an overwhelming one. It has satisfied itself that there is no section of opinion which proposes a destiny for the Territory other than these, and it has therefore concluded that no further consultation on these questions is necessary.

169. The Mission has also concluded that the resurgence of organized disturbances in a limited part of the Cameroons has been brought virtually to an end and that the introduction of a broader amnesty would be timely; it is convinced of the intention of the Government to translate its own desire, which is that of the people as a whole, for a new act of reconciliation into the form of early proposals for a broad amnesty measure. The Mission has felt that the question of the representation in the legislature of the Sanaga-Maritime needed to be settled, and it is confident that this problem will be solved in a manner in which the fullest expression will be given to the will of the people concerned.

170. Finally, the Mission has no reason to doubt that on 1 January 1960 the people of the Cameroons intend to secure, with the agreement of the Administering Authority, the transfer of all the remaining powers and competences necessary to their full exercise of sovereignty.

171. The Government and the Legislative Assembly of the Cameroons accordingly look now towards the United Nations—and in particular towards the General Assembly as the organ which approved the Trusteeship Agreement—to give its consent to the course which they have chosen and to take, in agreement with the Administering Authority, those decisions which will ensure that at the moment when the Cameroons becomes independent the Agreement will cease to be in force. The Mission thinks it worthy of note that the Government and legislature have always intended that the Territory should remain under trusteeship until the date of independence and that in fact, as explained elsewhere in the report (see para. 121), the timetable for independence was largely based on their concern that adequate time should be left to the General Assembly for completing the procedures leading to the termination of the Trusteeship Agreement.

172. *For the foregoing reasons the Mission is confident that the General Assembly will be in a position in 1959 to adopt a resolution providing for the termination of the Trusteeship Agreement relating to the Cameroons on its attainment of independence on 1 January 1960. It accordingly recommends to the Trusteeship Council that the latter should propose that course to the General Assembly.*

ANNEXES

Annex I

Description of the Mission's visit

Introduction

1. The Visiting Mission has set forth in this annex an account of its visit to the Trust Territory. Limitations of time and space prevent it from doing full justice to all that it heard and saw in the course of its visit; moreover, the overriding importance of the question of the political future of the Trust Territory—and the fact that this question is, indeed, in the forefront of public discussion in the Territory—had obliged it to devote less attention than would otherwise have been the case to the many interesting aspects which it encountered of the normal life of the population and its economic, social and educational progress.

2. The Mission regards this account, nevertheless, as a useful and in fact necessary supplement to the main body of its report. It cannot pretend to be a precise reflection of public opinion from one district of the Territory to another, since on the whole the Mission heard only the views of those people who volunteered to express them. The Mission of course was not always in a position to know whether the organizations and groups whose spokesmen appeared before it were as representative or as numerous in their membership as was sometimes claimed. It gives their views without implying that they did in fact represent substantial sections of opinion. This record of the visit, however, will in particular serve to indicate the range and nature of local variations on the themes presented by the main political parties, and examined elsewhere in the report,* as to the future of the Trust Territory. It will also help to indicate to some extent the local political, economic and social circumstances in which that principal issue was being discussed at the time of the Mission's visit.

3. It should be added that either explicitly or by implication, many of the political groups, traditional authorities and other local bodies and individuals whom the Mission met subordinated to the major political questions the views which they might have wished to emphasize concerning their local problems: namely, on such subjects, familiar to every Visiting Mission, as the need for more schools, roads, medical services, and so on. Many of these matters were nevertheless brought to the Mission's attention. To the extent that such problems seemed to be territorial in scope and of particular relevance to the future of the Territory, the Mission has dealt with them in the main part of its report. But where they seemed essentially local in character it has taken the view—and it said so on appropriate occasions in the Territory—that the extent of self-government already at the disposal of the people of the Cameroons would be made meaningless if they failed to make the most of it. In other words, the authorities primarily responsible for dealing with local problems such as the need for new bridges, schools, dispensaries and the like, are the organs of government which have been elected by the people themselves.

* Extracts from the texts of the main presentations made to the Mission are also given in annex III.

Yaoundé

4. The Mission started its tour of the Cameroons under French administration by visiting Yaoundé, the capital. It is a most attractive-looking town, rising on the slopes of several green hills, with broad, well-laid-out streets lined by numerous modern buildings. Yaoundé is the seat of the High Commissioner, the Cameroons Government and the Legislative Assembly. It is the terminus of the railway line from Douala and is a major highway centre. It is also the second most important commercial town in the Cameroons and a collection point for export products from the interior, such as cocoa and palm kernels. The Mission stayed at Yaoundé from 14 to 18 November. Subsequently, in the course of its tour, it revisited the town twice, once before going to the Sanaga-Maritime and again before setting out for the north.

5. During its stay the Mission had several conversations with Mr. Xavier Torre, the High Commissioner of the French Republic, and Mr. Ahmadou Ahidjo, the Prime Minister, in the course of which the organization of the Mission's visit and all questions of substance pertaining to the Territory's future were discussed in detail. The questions of substance raised during these conversations are set forth in detail in the Mission's report. With regard to the organization of its visit, the Mission had a very frank discussion with the Prime Minister on the attitude to be taken towards petitioners who might attempt to speak in the name of the UPC. Mr. Ahidjo felt that the Mission should hear any Cameroonian provided that he spoke as an individual or on behalf of a legal organization. Such persons could express any opinion they wished and even defend the doctrines of the UPC but they could not be admitted as speaking in the name of an organization which had been dissolved, for that was against the law.

6. The Mission also visited, at their respective ministries, the Ministers of Education, Rural Production, Economic Affairs, Labour, Health, Finance and Public Works, and the Secretary of State for the Interior. In each instance the Minister presented his principal associates to the Mission and, after a tour of the Ministry offices, a meeting was arranged at which the responsible officials of the Ministry outlined to the Mission the policy they had adopted, the results achieved and the difficulties encountered. All the Ministers stressed the necessity for pressing forward with the economic and social development of the country and told the Mission of their determination to carry out their task in spite of the technical and financial difficulties. At the Mission's request, they also gave their views on the future of the Territory, which coincided with those of the Prime Minister.

7. The Mission had several interviews at the Legislative Assembly, first with the President of the Assembly, Mr. Daniel Kémajou, then with his officers and finally with each of the Assembly's committees. There again, all aspects of the question of the Territory's future were discussed in detail in a free and open manner. The Mission put numerous questions to the deputies

who were present and the latter in turn questioned the Mission on points about which they were not clear. It was in this way that the Mission became aware that several members of the Assembly had originally advocated a referendum on the constitutional system of the future independent State because they thought that the United Nations would insist upon a popular consultation being held in the Territory before it agreed to terminate the trusteeship. As soon as they found that that was not necessarily the case, they changed their attitude on the matter. In the interviews with the Assembly committees, the technical problems with which each committee is entrusted were also discussed. The Mission gained the impression that the members of the Assembly were deeply aware of the importance of their work and were resolved to make a success of it. The Mission also attended a formal meeting of the Legislative Assembly.

8. While the Mission was in Yaoundé the Second Congress of the Association of Mayors and Elected Representatives of the communes of the Cameroons started its work. The Mission attended the opening meeting with great interest.

9. Finally, the Mission devoted a great deal of its time to hearing petitioners. It granted hearings to, *inter alia*, the members of the Executive Committee of the Parti des Démocrates camerounais and ten deputies of its parliamentary group, headed by Mr. Mbida, the former Prime Minister; the local branch of the Mouvement d'Action nationale du Cameroun, the Association amicale des chefs traditionnels du Cameroun, the Union des Associations traditionnelles du Cameroun, the Comité pour la réconciliation et l'amnistie, the Confédération générale kamerunaise du Travail, the Organization syndicale de la Force ouvrière, the Confédération camerounaise des syndicats chrétiens, the Union nationale des mères camerounaises, the Comité de coordination du Cameroun, and the Parti de la jeunesse nationaliste. Discussion during these hearings centred almost exclusively on the future of the Territory. The views expressed by the various organizations are set forth in the report.

10. Mr. Marigoh Mboua and Mr. Ndibo Mbarsola, deputies from Lom-et-Kadeï, and Mr. Ntonga Aloys, a deputy from Kribi, also came to see the Mission to complain, on behalf of the people they represent, that their regions had been omitted from the programme the Mission had drawn up for its visit. The Mission explained to them that the very limited time at its disposal did not allow it to visit all the regions in the Territory and that it had therefore been necessary to leave out some of the less easily accessible ones.

11. There was only one incident at Yaoundé in connexion with the requests for hearings. On 13 November, the day before the Mission arrived in the Territory, a certain Mr. Fouda Gallus delivered to the High Commissioner's Office a personal request for a hearing by the Mission. The following day he returned to the Office with two other people and submitted a second request, this one drawn up on behalf of the "Yaoundé departmental branch of the Union des populations du Cameroun". All three were immediately arraigned on a charge of reviving an outlawed organization. The High Commissioner's Office handed the first request for a hearing to the Mission together with a photostat of the second request, the original of which had been transmitted to the *Procureur général*, and a press release issued by the High Commissioner's Office on the subject of the arrest of Mr. Fouda Gallus, which read as follows:

"The Office of the High Commissioner of the French Republic in the Cameroons issues the following statement:

"On 14 November three persons presented themselves at Yaoundé to request a hearing by the Visiting Mission of the Trusteeship Council; their request was drawn up in the name of the UPC.

"They were immediately arraigned on a charge of reviving an outlawed organization.

"The High Commissioner's Office takes the occasion to point out that the population is completely free to request hearings by the Visiting Mission or to submit petitions to it in an individual capacity or on behalf of legally constituted organizations."

12. The Mission sent a letter to Mr. Fouda Gallus, through the High Commissioner, informing him that it had granted him the hearing which he had requested on his own behalf and that the hearing would take place on the afternoon of 3 December. During its last visit to Yaoundé the Mission was informed by the High Commissioner's Office that Mr. Fouda Gallus had been released. Since, for reasons given further on in this annex, the Mission was obliged to advance the date of its departure from Yaoundé, it sent word to the petitioner that if he still wished to see the Mission he could do so at 2 p.m. on 2 December. He did not, however, appear at the appointed hour.

The cocoa-growing area

13. South of Yaoundé there is a plateau covered with dense forest, where ecological conditions are particularly favourable to the growing of cocoa. Here, in the shadow of tall trees, a great number of small cocoa plantations have been established, all in the hands of indigenous planters, covering a total area of nearly 100,000 hectares. In recent years this area has experienced some degree of prosperity as a result of favourable cocoa prices in the immediate post-war period and of measures taken under the ten-year plan for economic and social development. At the time of the Mission's visit, however, production had fallen considerably as a consequence of an exceptional drought which had recently affected this part of the country.

14. Political development in the cocoa-growing area has been more rapid than in most of the other regions in the Cameroons. In 1952 this area was the scene of the experiment in rural *communes-mixtes* in accordance with which the rural inhabitants were, for the first time, called upon to take part in the administration of local affairs. The result was evidently satisfactory, since this innovation was subsequently introduced in other parts of the Cameroons. The urban *communes-mixtes* at Ebolowa, Mbalmayo and Sangmélima have recently been advanced to the status of *communes de plein exercice*. The inhabitants of these towns had been called on to elect the new municipal councils on 30 November and, at the time of the Mission's visit, they were in the midst of the electoral campaign.

15. This area comprises the two administrative regions of Ntem and Dja-et-Lobo and a large part of a third region, the Nyong-et-Sanaga. The three regions are administered respectively by Mr. René Blanchard, Mr. Fernand Bayol and Mr. Robert Maurage.

16. The Mission visited the area from 19 to 22 November. In each of the three main towns it devoted much of its time to hearing representatives of the inhabitants and petitioners. At Mbalmayo, for example, it heard Mr. Amougou Nguélé, deputy for the subdivision, the municipal councils of the urban and rural *communes-mixtes*, the Paramount Chief of the town, and the local branches of the Union nationale des mères camerounaises, the CGKT and the Confédération des Syndicats indépendants du Cameroun; at Ebolowa, it heard the Mayor's deputy, the Executive Committee of the Mouvement d'Action nationale, headed by Mr. Charles Assalé, Minister of Finance and deputy for the region, the local branches of the INDECAM, the CGKT and the Union traditionnelle Bantou, the Association amicale des anciens combattants of the region and the Association scolaire of Ntem. Lastly, at Sangmélima the Mission heard the municipal councils of the urban and rural *communes-mixtes*, Mr. Gaston Médou, deputy for the region, and the local branches of the CGKT, the Force ouvrière, the USAC, the MANC, the Parti des Démocrates camerounais and the Union tribale Bantou.

The matters raised during these hearings usually referred to the future of the Territory. Some speakers mentioned also the economic crisis the area was experiencing as a result of the poor cocoa crop and requested technical and financial help from the Administration and from the United Nations.

17. In this densely populated area numerous villages were to be found along the road taken by the Mission. The inhabitants of many of these villages had set up palm fronds at the edge of the road and had gathered together at the entrances to their villages in order to welcome the Mission and to convey their views about the future of the Territory by means of petitions and placards. The Mission therefore made halts at many villages, such as Menguémé, Ngoulémakong and Mengong. From the demonstrations organized by the inhabitants and from its conversations with the various organizations in this area the Mission gained the impression that the Mouvement d'Action nationale (MANC) had established a predominant influence in the whole cocoa-growing area, especially at Ebolowa.

18. In consequence of the limited time at its disposal, the Mission was not able to give as much attention as it would have wished to the institutions of an economic and social nature in the district. At Mbalmayo it did, however, visit the New-Town housing estate, a municipal kindergarten, the Forestry School and the La Cité school. A visit to this school had not been included in the programme but the Mission went there at the request of the head master, Father Maurice Mbarga.

19. At Ebolowa the Mission visited two impressive social institutions: the Women Teachers Training College and the hospital run by the Cameroons Presbyterian Church. It also inspected the large station for cocoa research and disease control at Nkoemvoné. The main function of this station is to select the best varieties of cocoa-tree and to provide cuttings for distribution to planters. By this method it is hoped to replace the low-yield trees at present found in the plantations by young trees of the best varieties. The station has already achieved good results. The Mission also attended a business meeting of the municipal council of the rural *commune-mixte*.

Abong-Mbang and Sâa

20. On 21 November the Mission was to go from Sangmélima to Abong-Mbang by road, via Akonolinga. The road was, however, blocked as a result of a violent storm which burst over the region during the night of 20/21 November and the Mission was compelled to change its plans. It went first to Yaoundé by road and flew from there to Abong-Mbang, returning to Yaoundé on the next day. It did not, therefore, visit Akonolinga, as had been anticipated. Some of the inhabitants of the town wrote to the Mission expressing their disappointment at this omission, but the Mission could only send a telegram expressing its deep regret.

21. The region in which Abong-Mbang is situated, which is called the Haut-Nyong, and the two south-eastern regions, Lom-et-Kadei and Toumba Ngoko, are for the most part clothed in heavy virgin forest. Owing to their geographical and climatic disadvantages, these three regions have lagged behind the other regions of the south in their political, economic and social evolution. School attendance is lower than elsewhere in the south and communications are poor.

22. Abong-Mbang is situated in a clearing in the great forest and is, so to speak, overwhelmed by it. The heat and humidity from the forest are stifling. Arriving there on 22 November, the Mission was received by the Chief Regional Officer of the Haut-Nyong, M. Jacques de Stadieu. During its short stay it conversed with the two deputies for the region, Mr. Ninékam, who is also Secretary of State for the Interior, and Mr. Mabaya, the members of the municipal council, the Paramount Chief of the region and representatives of the MANC Regional Committee. All of them supported the Government's programme for the future of the Territory. The Mission also received a petition from a number of political prisoners transferred from other regions to the local prison; they had been and remained supporters of the objectives of the UPC.

23. On the next day, 23 November, a Sunday, members of the Mission paid a short visit to Sâa to meet the people there. Sâa Subdivision is very like the cocoa-growing area visited a few days earlier, though the forest is somewhat less heavy and there are fewer cocoa plantations.

24. After being received by the Chief of Subdivision, M. Rémy Dusserre, the Mission talked with Mr. Ngaba, the deputy for the region, the members of the municipal council of the rural mixed commune, the local branch of the Parti des Démocrates camerounais, the traditional chiefs of the region and the Association des anciens combattants. The Mission stopped several times on the way from Yaoundé to Sâa to receive petitions that villagers wanted to present. The opinions expressed both in the conversations and the petitions appear to indicate that the people of the region are divided into two groups, one of which supports the Government's views and the other those of the Parti des Démocrates camerounais.

Sanaga-Maritime

25. The Mission spent from 24 to 26 November in the area, which is know generally as "the Sanaga-Maritime" because until June 1958 it constituted the former administrative region of that name. It now comprises in fact the two administrative regions of Sanaga-Maritime and Nyong-et-Kellé. These two regions are administered respectively by Mr. Jacques Rivaille and Mr. Louis Capelle. This area, which lies to the west of Yaoundé, consists of an alluvial plain running along the coast and inland, beyond Edéa, a plateau covered with thick forest. Here are to be found four of the largest economic enterprises in the Cameroons, the ENELCAM hydro-electric station, the ALUCAM aluminium works, the Société des bois du Cameroun and the Dizangué rubber plantation. The activities of these great enterprises have provided work for many thousands of Africans, in an area where the traditional African economy is predominant. The agricultural productivity of the Bassa, who are in the majority in the region, is much inferior to that of other ecologically similar regions, and their level of living is therefore lower.

26. The visit to the Sanaga-Maritime Region was of particular interest to the Mission, for it was in that region that the movement of rebellion had been most active. It will be remembered that it was at Eséka that Mr. Um Nyobé, a Bassa from the neighbouring village of Boumnyebel, founded the Union des populations du Cameroun in 1948. After the incidents of 1955 he took to the forest near the village of his birth and organized a "resistance movement" against the Administration.

27. As explained in the main part of the report, the French authorities considerably strengthened the security forces in the area in order to suppress the movement, and the whole area affected, known as the *zone de pacification* (ZOPAC), was placed under the military command. At the same time as the security forces were strengthened, the rural population was regrouped near the roads in villages which were surrounded by stockades and provided with a warning system. The object of this was to provide better protection for the people and to isolate the gangs of insurgents. The Mission was informed that from 10,000 to 15,000 people were involved in this regrouping.

28. The Mission saw a number of these regrouped villages along the road on its way from Yaoundé to Eséka. In many of the villages the inhabitants gathered at the side of the road to welcome the Mission and hand it petitions. The Mission stopped for this purpose at Matomp, Ngoung-Lapugne, Boumnyebel, Mouanda and Song-Matip.

29. Many of those whom the Mission saw in the regrouped villages had not initially liked being moved but subsequently they realized that it had been necessary and did not complain. The French authorities said that the inhabitants of those villages which supported the insurgents had naturally been particularly reluctant. The Mission was also informed that now that the movement of revolt was practically over the villagers would shortly be permitted to return to their original villages. Most of them have been able to visit their farms and maintain them with the help of motor transport provided by the authorities.

30. In these villages the Mission also met a number of the insurgents who had given themselves up. The Mission was informed that by the end of November 2,070 people had come into the open and that, with the exception of 104 who had committed various crimes, they had all been allowed to return to normal life. For some of them, however, a transitional period of rehabilitation was required; this happened when the inhabitants of a village where there had been bloodshed were reluctant to accept the former insurgents and the latter had to be accommodated in another village until their own people felt ready to accept them.

31. Lastly, the Mission met many victims of terrorism, some of whom were maimed, and many others were widows mourning the death of their husbands and mothers who had lost children. All but one or two submitted to the Mission petitions demanding punishment for the criminals according to law, amnesty for the misguided and compensation for the losses they had suffered, or petitions for other financial assistance. The representative of the Cameroons Government who accompanied the Mission informed it that his Government was considering the possibility of granting some assistance for the people of the area as a whole; moreover, a special allocation of development funds had been made.

32. At Eséka the Mission conversed with several municipal councillors, a number of traditional chiefs of the region, Mr. Bernard Banag, the regional deputy, the Executive Committee of the ESOCAM and the local branch of the BDC. It also granted hearings to a number of defected members of the UPC, including Mr. Théodore Mahi Matip, who had been Um Nyobé's right-hand man during the resistance period, and to many victims of terrorism.

33. All those who raised the question of independence and unification during these talks supported the Cameroons Government's programme. The chief concern of the people was, however, the question of an amnesty. Most of them wanted a conditional amnesty, the conditions being frequently summed up as "an amnesty for the dupes, punishment for the criminals". As far as the defected members of the UPC were concerned, they urged "mutual reconcilation" but did not consider that such a reconciliation could be achieved until a complete and total amnesty for political activities had been declared.

34. The Mission visited the command post of the *zone de pacification* to hear Lieutenant-Colonel Lamberton, the officer commanding the zone, describe the steps that had been taken to put down the revolt. This officer answered fully and frankly all the questions asked by members of the Mission concerning the objectives of his command, the disposition of prisoners taken, and the methods of patrolling carried out under his orders. He gave his opinion that the affair was practically over, and that the number who remained in the forest could not exceed 100. He anticipated that they would shortly surrender and that the people of the regrouped villages would be able to go home in peace. He showed the Mission some of the cruder guns taken from the insurgents: they were elementary weapons, effective only at short range, which the rebels had made themselves with makeshift materials.

35. In the afternoon of 24 November the Mission visited the modern sawmill of the Société des bois du Cameroun and received an address from representatives of the employees. It was interested to learn that the mill, which employs over 1,000 Bassa workers, had worked without interruption during the disturbances in the surrounding area, and it was impressed by the mill's importance to the economy of the otherwise poor region. In the evening the Mission visited one of the loading stations of the company where it saw huge logs being loaded mechanically onto road and railway trucks by the light of powerful floodlights. The export of logs is an important part of the company's activity.

36. The next day the Mission travelled from Eséka to Edéa by train. It was welcomed by the Administrator-Mayor and the municipal councillors of the town and subsequently had talks with Mr. Antoine Logmo, the regional deputy, the municipal councillors of the rural mixed commune, a number of the traditional chiefs of the region and the local branches of the ESOCAM, the INDECAM, the Front national, the CGKT and the USAC. The attitudes of these political parties and trade-union organizations are set forth in the main part of the Mission's report.

37. The Mission also paid a visit to the industrial complex consisting of the ENELCAM hydroelectric station and the ALUCAM aluminium plant, of which a description has been given in the body of the report (see para. 35). Equally impressive are the modern medical facilities provided for the workers and staff, and the housing development, both of which the Mission inspected.

Douala

38. Leaving the Sanaga-Maritime, the Mission visited Douala from 26 to 28 November. With a population of nearly 140,000 inhabitants, Douala is by far the largest town in the Cameroons. It is on a natural habour at an important point on the coast of Africa and is the outlet for the production of part of central Africa as well as of the Cameroons. Its impressive installations, the intense activities of the port and town and the large number of buildings which have recently been put up or are being constructed all bear witness to the great progress which Douala has made. It is also a focus of intense political and trade-union activity. The trade unions and most of the political parties have either their headquarters or local branches there. It was also the seat of the Executive Committee of the UPC before that party was dissolved.

39. A few days before it arrived at Douala, the Mission was informed by the High Commissioner's Office that a trade union and two political movements had announced their intention of organizing public demonstrations there on the occasion of the Mission's visit. The High Commissioner's Office also stated that it had reason to believe that members of the UPC were planning to create an impression of unrest and disorder during the Mission's visit. With a view to maintaining law and order, the High Commissioner's Office had decided, with the agreement of the Cameroons Government, to invoke the provisions of the law in order to forbid all public demonstrations during the Mission's stay. The Prime Minister later explained to the Mission that his Government had given its approval to the proposal to forbid demonstrations in Douala because it knew that agitators belonging to the UPC wanted to provoke disturbances in order to discredit the present Government. He pointed out that Douala, being a port where there were large numbers of casual labourers and at that time nearly 8,000 unemployed, was fertile ground for political agitation and that the town had always been and would continue to be a place of special problems.

40. The Mission had also heard that a very large number of requests for hearings awaited it at Douala and that many organizations were planning to come and see it, accompanied by numerous supporters. The Mission accordingly decided to devote all its time at Douala to hearing petitioners. One day before it was due at Douala, it sent two members of the secretariat ahead to examine the requests and to make arrangements for the

hearings; it also issued the following statement for the information of the public:

"In view of the large number of requests for hearings which have already been submitted and of the limited time at its disposal the Visiting Mission, with a view to the efficient conduct of its hearings, requests each organization to appoint four or five members as spokesmen.

"This procedure has already been adopted by the Mission at the other places which it has visited.

"For the reasons given above, the Mission considers it unnecessary for larger groups belonging to these organizations to gather outside the premises where the hearings are to take place."

41. The result of these precautions was that the Mission was able to grant all the requests for hearings that it received. Inmediately after being received by the delegate of the High Commissioner in Douala, Mr. Edgar Claverie, the Chief Regional Officer, Mr. Robert Bonneau, and the Mayor of the city, Mr. Tokolo, the Mission established itself in offices which the Administration placed at its disposal in a house of the Ministry of Public Works, where it conducted its hearings of petitioners during the afternoon of 26 November and throughout the day of 27 November. It was thus able to hear fifty-two groups of petitioners. The most important were the Féderation du Wouri and three branches of the MANC; two groups from the ESOCAM; the Executive Committee of the CGKT and eleven delegations from that organization; the CRFN; the Union nationale des mères camerounaises, the Executive Committee of the Force ouvrière and the USAC; the Front national camerounais; the local branches of the USC, the INDECAM, and the Front national, the Comité pour la réunification du Cameroun, and the Ngondo. Several thousand petitions were handed to it by petitioners.

42. Several petitioners, however, notably those who were members of the CGKT and the CRFN, complained that the Mission had set up its offices in the middle of the administrative section which they said was some distance from the African part of the town. Although they themselves had no difficulty, they alleged that the police measures following the incident related below had made it difficult for others to gain access to the Mission and that in consequence many people had been unable to convey their requests for hearings to the Mission or to deliver their petitions to it. A large number of petitions containing similar complaints were received through the mail by the Mission after it had left Douala.

43. A very serious incident took place in Douala shortly after the Mission's arrival. A group of demonstrators had gathered before the *Salle des fêtes* at Akwa, one of the African sectors of the town, and had refused to disperse when requested to do so by members of the police force; a scuffle ensued, causing the death of two persons—a Cameroonian guard and a demonstrator; several others were injured, including two French gendarmes.

44. At the request of the Mission, the High Commissioner provided it with a detailed report on this incident. He stated that, before the Mission's arrival and as a result of his order banning demonstrations, the MANC and the CRFN had called off the domonstrations which they had planned; the CGKT, however, had persisted in its decision to organize a procession. Agitators belonging to the UPC who had planned to create an atmosphere of unrest and disorder in Douala during the Mission's visit had seized the opportunity thus offered to them of carrying out their plans. At 10 a.m. on 26 November—the time at which the Mission was to arrive at Douala—a small group of demonstrators who had been stationed along the road at the entrance to the town had tried to halt the Mission's vehicles. Later the demonstrators had formed larger groups and marched in procession, carrying flags and placards, towards the *Salle des fêtes* at Akwa. The procession was headed by a party of women; immediately following them came agitators belonging to the UPC and the end of the column was brought up by members of the CGKT. When they reached the *Salle des fêtes* the demonstrators massed themselves before the building and assault- ed the members of the police force.

45. The High Commissioner pointed out that, although some 250 demonstrators were grouped in front of the *Salle des fêtes*, only about forty persons had tried to resist the police. It was thus not a popular rising but a deliberate move planned by professional agitators. The High Commissioner further pointed out that those parties which had said that they wanted to organize demonstrations—the CRFN and the MANC—had denied that they had been responsible for these incidents, and that even the CGKT had maintained, in a pamphlet predated 25 November, that the incidents which took place on 26 November had not been foreseen or planned by them.

46. During 26 November a somewhat tense atmosphere prevailed in the town. Police were stationed at key points and a curfew was imposed on the night of 26-27 November. It should be added that this state of affairs did not last long: the curfew was raised the following day and the representative of the High Commissioner informed the Mission that the gendarmes stationed near the Mission's offices had been recalled. Nevertheless, the Mission has felt obliged to draw attention to these events because, throughout its stay in the Territory, with the sole exception of Douala, demonstrations were peaceful in intent and character. The Mission, on leaving Douala, expressed regret that its presence there should have been the occasion for this unfortunate incident.

Bamiléké and Bamoun

47. A few hours before its departure from Douala, the Mission was informed that the Fourth Committee had adopted a resolution envisaging that the General Assembly should resume its thirteenth session on 20 February 1959 for the purpose of considering the future of the Trust Territories of the Cameroons under French administration and the Cameroons under United Kingdom administration. In order to be able to meet this new time-table the Mission decided to leave for Paris three days earlier thanhad been planned. As a result, it was obliged to forgo the visits to Nkongsamba, Bafia and Mokolo which had been included in the programme.

48. The Mission spent three days in Bamiléké and Bamoun, from 28 November to 1 December. Bamiléké is a mountainous district with an altitude varying from 900 to 1,500 metres. The population density is in some places as high as 350 inhabitants to the square kilometre and the people of the region are among the hardest working and most energetic in the Cameroons. The Mission was greatly impressed by the way in which the Bamiléké farmers had succeeded in making use of every available piece of arable land in the valleys and on the hillsides. In addition to food crops, this area produces, amongst other things, tobacco, cinchona bark, cocoa, and above all coffee of excellent quality. The raising of small stock such as pigs, goats and chickens is another activity of the area. Geographic and economic conditions in Bamoun, which lies to the north-east of the river Noum, are somewhat similar to those in Bamiléké. It is, however, much less densely populated and has not been developed to the same extent. As its population is Sudanese by origin and for the most part Moslem, Bamoun marks in fact the beginning of the Northern Cameroons.

49. In Bamiléké the Mission, accompanied by the Chief Regional Officer, Mr. Maurice Delauney, visited the towns of Bafang, Bafoussam and Dschang. At Bafang it met the municipal councils of the urban and rural *communes mixtes* and the association of sub-chiefs and notables of that subdivision, while at Bafoussam it met the municipal councils of the urban and rural *communes mixtes*, a deputy for the subdivision, the Paramount Chief Kamga Joseph, the representative of a local party, the Rassemblement du peuple camerounais, and several traditional chiefs. In the Bafoussam Subdivision which, with Sanaga-Maritime, has been one of the areas most affected by terrorism during the last two years, the Mission received a number of petitions from victims of assault. Most of these asked for compensation for the losses which they had suffered.

50. During the hearings which it granted at Dschang, the Mission received a delegation from the Kumsze, led by Mr. Mathias Djoumessi, the deputy for the region, the local branch of the CGKT, the sub-chief of Fongangté, and several petitioners, amongst whom were two sisters of the Sacré-Cœur de Lyon. The latter spoke movingly of the orphanage which they run and asked the Mission to help them to obtain milk for the 200 orphans in their charge. The representative of the Cameroonian Government who accompanied the Mission took note of this request.

51. As was the case in the other parts of the Territory visited by the Mission, the conversations the Mission had in Bamiléké centred mainly on the three questions affecting the future of the Territory i.e., independence, amnesty and unification. In Bamiléké, the desire for unification seemed to be much stronger than elsewhere. Many families have members living on the other side of the frontier; some of the mountain peaks on that side are indeed visible from the Bamiléké country. The delegation from the Kumsze, which included one member from Mamfe, presented the Mission with a woven bag symbolizing the indissoluble links between the two Cameroons. The question of the amnesty was also a matter of evident concern to some of the people, especially in the Bafoussam Subdivision.

52. In Bamoun, the Mission was able only to visit Foumban, the chief town. After being received by the Chief Regional Officer, Mr. Pierre Chalvignac, the Sultan of Bamoun, Seidou Njimoluh Njoya, who is also one of the two deputies for the district, and Mr. Njoya Arouna, a Minister who is the other deputy for the district, the Mission went to the palace of the Sultan where it heard addresses by the Sultan and the spokesman of the municipal council. The Mission had also conversations with the Sultan's assistant, a delegation of Paramount Chiefs, the local branch of the ESOCAM and a delegation of local ex-servicemen. All of these stated that they supported the Government's programme. Indeed, apart from the delegation of the ESOCAM, the influence of which appeared to be negligible, all the politically active people whom the Mission saw in Bamoun were either members or supporters of the Union camerounaise.

The Adamaoua Region

53. The great Adamaoua plateau, the altitude of which varies from 800 metres in the south to nearly 1,500 metres in the north, occupies the centre of the Cameroons. Vegetation is abundant in the valleys in the southern part of this plateau but becomes more sparse towards the north. The average population density is only three to the square kilometre and the inhabitants belong to the Foulbé (Fula) group, of Hamitic origin, and to the Kirdi group, of Sudanese origin. Most of the Foulbés have been converted to the Moslem faith, while the Kirdis have for the most part remained pagan, although some of them have come under the influence of Islam and Christianity. This region is poor in agricultural resources; they include millet, maize, manioc and a little rice. It is, however, well stocked with cattle, as a result of which there is trade in meat, hides and dairy produce.

54. Accompanied by the Chief Regional Officer, Mr. Raymond Cruz, the Mission visited Ngaoundéré, the chief town of the region, from 2 to 3 December. In the course of its hearings it received the leaders of the local branch of the Mouvement de l'Union camerounaise, the members of the municipal council of the urban *commune-mixte* and representatives of merchants in the town. It also had long conversations with the Lamidos of Ngaoundéré and Banyo; the latter also represents this region in the Legislative Assembly.

55. All these personages stated that they had confidence in the Cameroonian Government and that they approved the programme which it had adopted for the future of the Territory. During the talk which the Lamido of Banyo had with the Mission, he asked for the reunification of the two Cameroons and more especially of the two Adamaoua regions; he stated, however, that he did not accept the suzerainty of the Lamido of Yola. He favoured the attainment of independence but in this connexion he said that he mistrusted the progressive parties of the south and he asked for some guarantee that the status of the chiefs would be preserved. The Mission has noted in this connexion that the new Statute which came into force on 1 January 1959 states, in article 20, that "the continuance of the traditional or customary chiefdoms as they now exist in the Cameroons shall be guaranteed". It was clear from all that the Mission saw and heard in Ngaoundéré that the influence of the Mouvement de l'Union camerounaise is preponderant there. Everyone of any importance is a member of that party or supports its aims.

56. During its stay at Ngaoundéré, the Mission visited the cattle station at Wakwa, where efforts are made to improve pasturage and to raise the quality of local herds by introducing Brahman stud bulls imported from the United States.

The far north

57. North of the Adamaoua plateau is a plain watered by the river Bénoué, which is a tributary of the Niger. To the north-west this plain ends in a mountain range full of jagged peaks; to the north-east, it joins another plain which slopes in some places imperceptibly towards Lake Chad. This is a region of highly wooded savannas; its agricultural products are millet, maize, manioc, cotton and ground-nuts. In the Maroua area there are also fairly large herds of cattle. The region is densely populated in the Maroua and Mokolo areas and in the neighbourhood of Garoua, but thinly inhabited elsewhere. As in Adamoua, the inhabitants belong to two main groups, the Foulbés and the Kirdis.

58. The Mission visited Garoua and Maroua, the two chief towns in this region, from 3 to 6 December. At Garoua, where it was received by the delegate of the High Commissioner for the Northern Cameroons, Mr. Marchand, and the Chief Regional Officer of the Bénoué Region, Jean Pillard, it met the Lamidos of Rey-Bouba, Garoua and Guider, representatives of the Executive Committee of the Mouvement de l'Union camerounaise and of its local branches at Poli, Guider and Garoua, and delegates from the municipal council. At Maroua, the Mission was received by the Chief Regional Officer, Mr. Alexandre Ter Sarkissof. It had conversations with the Lamidos of Maroua, Bogo and Mindif and representatives of the Diamaré and Margui-Wandala local branches of the Mouvement de l'Union camerounaise. All of them expressed identical views; they expressed confidence in the present Legislative Assembly and Government and full approval of the programme for the future of the Territory adopted by those bodies. What the Mission has had to say about the Adamaoua Region applies also here; the influence of the Mouvement de l'Union camerounaise at present preponderates throughout the north. The Mission was nevertheless informed that the Mouvement d'action nationale had recently opened a local branch at Garoua. It was clear, however, that this party had not yet succeeded in exercising any noticeable influence there.

59. On 6 December 1958, the Mission proceeded to Fort-Lamy, capital of the Autonomous Republic of Chad, in order to board the plane for Paris. It had intended, before leaving for Paris,

to visit Fort-Foureau, chief town of the Cameroons' northernmost region, the Logone-et-Chari, which lies opposite Fort-Lamy on the other bank of the river Logone. Unfortunately, it could not do that owing to a delay in its trip from Maroua to Fort-Lamy. The Mission, however, was able to talk at the airport with the Chief Regional Officer of the Logone-et-Chari, Mr. Jean Granier, and the two deputies of the Region, Mr. Garba Gueime and Mr. Youssouf Marouf, who expressed their support of the Government's programme concerning the future of the Cameroons. It was also received by the High Commissioner of the French Republic in Chad and had the pleasure of meeting the Prime Minister of the newly established Autonomous Republic.

Annex II

Ordinance No. 58-1375 of 30 December 1958 establishing the Statute of the Cameroons and Franco-Cameroons Conventions annexed to the Statute

I. Ordinance No. 58-1375 of 30 December 1958 establishing the Statute of the Cameroons

Preamble

The French Republic takes note of the resolution adopted by the Cameroons Legislative Assembly on 12 June 1958, especially its first paragraph, which affirms the option of the State of the Cameroons for independence upon the termination of the trusteeship.

It takes note also of the resolution adopted by the said Assembly on 24 October 1958,[b] proclaiming the will of the Cameroons people that the State of the Cameroons should attain full independence on 1 January 1960.

Desirous of complying with these wishes, it will take all appropriate measures to promote the attainment of independence by the Cameroons. The present Statute, which ensures the full internal autonomy of the State of the Cameroons, marks the last stage in the evolution of institutions before the termination of the trusteeship, which will take place in accordance with the conditions set forth in the Charter of the United Nations and the Trusteeship Agreement.

* * *

The President of the Council of Ministers,

Having considered the report of the Minister for Overseas France,

Having regard to the Trusteeship Agreement of 13 December 1946,

Having regard to the Constitution of 5 October 1958, in particular article 92,

Having regard to the motion, resolution and opinion of the Legislative Assembly of the Cameroons of 12 June, 24 October and 20 November 1958;

Having heard the *Conseil d'Etat*,

Having heard the Council of Ministers,

Orders as follows:

TITLE I

The State of the Cameroons

Article 1. The organization of the State of the Cameroons and its relations with the French Republic are defined, until its independence and the termination of the trusteeship, by this Statute.

[b] See document T/1427 above, para. 82.

Article 2.[c] Cameroons nationals (*ressortissants camerounais*) shall possess Cameroons citizenship, the conditions for the attribution of which shall be established by Cameroons law.

Throughout the French Republic they enjoy the rights and freedoms guaranteed to French citizens.

French citizens shall enjoy in the Cameroons the rights attached to the status of a Cameroons citizen, on a basis of reciprocity.

Their personal status shall continue to be governed by French law.

Cameroons citizens shall not be subject to military service on behalf of the French Republic. They may, however, enlist voluntarily in the armed forces of the French Republic.

Article 3. The French Republic shall, within the framework of international agreements, guarantee the integrity of the territorial limits of the State of the Cameroons.

TITLE II

Cameroons institutions

Article 4. Cameroons affairs shall be managed by the Legislative Assembly and the Cameroons Government, headed by a Prime Minister.

Article 5. Cameroons laws and regulations must respect treaties and international agreements, the principles and fundamental freedoms inscribed in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the Charter of the United Nations and the provisions of this Statute.

[c] This article is referred to in the main section of the Mission's report (para. 84). The text which had been proposed by the Legislative Assembly of the Cameroons was worded as follows:

"Cameroons nationals (*ressortissants camerounais*) shall possess Cameroons citizenship, the conditions for the attribution of which shall be established by Cameroons law.

"Except for participation in elections and the operation of the institutional organs of the Cameroons having a political or communal basis, French citizens shall enjoy in the Cameroons the rights and liberties attached to the status of Cameroons citizens.

"Under the same conditions, Cameroons citizens shall enjoy, on a basis of reciprocity, throughout the French Republic, the rights and liberties guaranteed to French citizens.

"The personal status of French citizens shall continue to be governed by French law.

"As a transitional measure, French citizens who are the holders of elective offices having a political or communal basis shall continue to hold them until the term of office expires, which shall take place, except on death or resignation, when the Council or Assembly of which they are members is completely renewed.

"Cameroons citizens shall not be subject to military service on behalf of the French Republic; they may, however, enlist voluntarily in the armed forces of the French Republic."

Section 1

Legislative powers

Article 6. Legislative powers shall be vested in the Legislative Assembly which shall be elected by universal direct and secret suffrage for a term of five years and shall have its seat in the capital of the State of the Cameroons.

Article 7. The method of election of the Legislative Assembly, the conditions of eligibility, the system of ineligibility and incompatibility and the rules for the immunity of its members shall be determined by an organic law.

Article 8. The Prime Minister in Council of Ministers and the members of the Legislative Assembly shall have the right to introduce draft legislation.

Article 9. Before the expiration of a period of ten clear days following the adoption of a law, the Prime Minister in Council of Ministers may ask the Legislative Assembly for a new deliberation, which request cannot be refused.

Article 10. If, during a period of eighteen months, two ministerial crises occur, the Legislative Assembly may be dissolved by decree of the Prime Minister issued in Council of Ministers.

Article 11. The Prime Minister in Council of Ministers may dissolve the Legislative Assembly with the advice and consent of the latter expressed in an open vote by an absolute majority of its members.

Article 12. In the event of the dissolution of the Assembly, the Cameroons Government shall remain in office for the purpose of dealing with current business and shall tender its resignation immediately on the designation of the officers of the new Assembly. New elections shall be held after the lapse of not less than one month and not more than three months from the date of the decree of dissolution.

Section 2

Executive powers

Article 13. At the beginning of each legislature or in the event of the office of Head of the Government falling vacant, the High Commissioner shall designate the Prime Minister after consultation of the representatives of all of the groups in the Legislative Assembly.

The Prime Minister so designated shall present himself before the Legislative Assembly in order to be confirmed in office in an open vote by an absolute majority of the members composing the Assembly. The High Commissioner shall confirm the investiture of the Prime Minister by an order, within twenty-four hours.

Article 14. The Prime Minister shall appoint the Ministers and Secretaries of State who, together with him, shall constitute the Cabinet and he shall allocate to them the services which they shall administer and for which they shall be responsible. He may remove them from office.

Article 15. A Prime Minister, Minister or Secretary of State may not at the same time hold the office of:

President of the Legislative Assembly;

Officer of the Assembly or member of any of its committees;

Member of the Government of the French Republic.

Article 16. The Prime Minister, Head of the Cameroons Government, shall preside over the Council of Ministers, shall exercise in Council of Ministers the power to issue regulations, shall organize the public services, shall make appointments to all positions in the State of the Cameroons and shall attend to the proper administration of justice.

He shall be responsible for the maintenance of law and order and shall ensure the security of persons and property.

Article 17. The Legislative Assembly may remove the Cabinet from office by the adoption of a motion of censure by an absolute majority in an open vote. The vote may not be taken until four clear days have elapsed since the introduction of the motion of censure.

Article 18. The Prime Minister may decide in Council of Ministers to ask for a vote of confidence. The vote of confidence may not take place until four clear days have elapsed since the request was submitted to the officers of the Assembly. A vote of no confidence shall require an absolute majority of the members composing the Assembly, taken in an open vote. A vote of no confidence shall entail the collective resignation of the Cabinet.

Article 19. The outgoing Government shall remain in office for the conduct of current affairs until a new Cabinet has been formed.

Article 20. The continuance of the traditional or customary chiefdoms as they now exist in the Cameroons shall be guaranteed. A Cameroons law shall define their special status.

Section 3

Judicial authority

Article 21. The transfer of judicial powers to the State of the Cameroons shall take place pursuant to the terms of a convention which will determine the principles of judicial organization in the Cameroons in respect of the separation of the administrative and judicial authorities and of the independence of magistrates.

Article 22. Military jurisdictions shall retain their powers as defined in the legislation now in force.

Infringements of the external security of the State of the Cameroons shall be regarded as attacks upon the external security of the French Republic.

TITLE III

Powers exercised by the French Republic

Article 23. The French Republic shall be responsible for monetary and foreign exchange policy, foreign policy, frontier security and defence of the State of the Cameroons.

The central organs of the French Republic have power to legislate and issue regulations in these fields.

Article 24. The Government of the French Republic shall be represented in the Cameroons by a High Commissioner, in whom the powers of the French Republic shall be vested. He shall be assisted by a Deputy High Commissioner.

He shall exercise, within the framework of laws and regulations, the powers of the French Republic and shall be the channel of communication between the Cameroons Government and the French Government. Within the limits of his authority he shall have the power of issuing regulations and may require the *Procureur général* of the Court of Appeals to carry out, in conformity with the instructions given by him, the acts necessary to bring matters before the courts.

The units of the land, sea and air forces shall be under his authority.

Article 25. In the event of armed disturbances, of imminent danger of such disturbances, or of war, the High Commissioner

and the Prime Minister may issue a joint order proclaiming a state of exception (*état d'exception*).

The initiative for this procedure shall lie with the High Commissioner and the Prime Minister in Council of Ministers. In the event of disagreement or of the absolute incapacity of one or the other of these parties, the French Government may be informed of the situation by either the High Commissioner or the Prime Minister for the purpose of the proclamation of a state of exception.

The order proclaiming a state of exception shall have the effect of transferring, within prescribed territorial limits and for a fixed time, the responsibility for the maintenance of law and order to the High Commissioner and of placing at his disposal the administrative authorities, personnel, forces and material means which he needs.

In application of this order, the High Commissioner shall take all urgent administrative measures necessary for the maintenance of law and order or for its restoration. He shall inform the Prime Minister of his action.

In the circumstances defined in the first paragraph, the High Commissioner may, on the request of the Prime Minister, furnish the assistance of elements of the armed forces for the maintenance or restoration of law and order. The intervention of these forces automatically entails the establishment of a state of exception in the place where they are engaged.

TITLE IV

International trusteeship

Article 26. By reason of the obligations assumed by the Government of the French Republic, the High Commissioner shall be kept informed by the Prime Minister of the functioning of the Cameroons institutions.

Cameroons laws, regulations and administrative acts shall be communicated to him prior to promulgation, publication or application.

Within a period of ten clear days he may request that they be read or examined a second time and this request may not be refused.

After there has been a further deliberation or examination, the High Commissioner may, within the same period, if he deems such texts to be contrary to the provisions of the present Statute, to treaties and international agreements or, in general, to legality, inform the Government of the French Republic which, after consulting the *Conseil d'Etat*, may within a period of three months issue a decree annuling the act submitted for consideration. The application of the act in question is suspended during this period.

TITLE V

Miscellaneous provisions

Article 27. Annexed conventions between the French Government and the Cameroons Government shall define the conditions of their administrative, technical, economic and financial co-operation, notably in the field of foreign trade and especially in regard to the methods of working out a common policy in these fields, shall regulate their participation in common organizations and shall determine the methods for the transfers brought about by the present Statute.

Article 28. French shall be the official language of the State of the Cameroons.

Article 29. Laws and regulations promulgated in the Cameroons up to the date of the entry into force of the present Statute and not contrary to the provisions thereof shall continue to be operative until they are amended or repealed in the manner prescribed by the said Statute.

Article 30. This ordinance shall have the force of law and shall be published in the *Journal officiel* of the French Republic and the *Journal officiel* of the Trust State of the Cameroons.

Done at Paris, 30 December 1958.

(Signed) C. DE GAULLE

II. Franco-Cameroonian Conventions—Annexes[d]

A. CONVENTION CONCERNING THE EXERCISE OF RESERVED POWERS, TRANSFERS AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL CO-OPERATION

TITLE I

Intergovernmental co-operation and foreign relations

Article 1. Any provisions relating to the High Commissioner's prerogatives, powers and right of precedence not amended by this Statute shall remain in force.

Article 2. The national emblems, the members of the Governments and of the Assemblies, and the administrative and judicial authorities of the French Republic and the State of the Cameroons shall receive military honours under the same conditions. The precedences established in a joint protocol by the High Commissioner and the Cameroonian Government shall be respected by the military authorities and the armed forces.

Article 3. The French and Cameroonian Governments undertake to keep each other informed of the activities of the services placed under their control in the Cameroons and to ensure the general co-ordination of the activities of these services.

Article 4. Persons who on the date of the conclusion of this Convention have the status of Cameroonian nationals (*ressortissants camerounais*) shall be regarded as Cameroonian nationals entitled to benefit from the provisions of article 2 of the Statute.

A special convention shall, in so far as this may be necessary, determine the conditions under which other Cameroonian nationals may enjoy the rights and liberties guaranteed to French citizens and the benefit of French diplomatic protection, after the Cameroonian Government or the Legislative Assembly has defined the conditions for the attribution of Cameroonian nationality.

This special convention shall, in the same conditions, settle any conflicts which may arise in the application of the provisions of the laws of both countries, wherever such provisions may have to be set aside because they might result in cases of dual nationality or statelessness.

Article 5. The French Government shall consult the Cameroonian Government on any international negotiations affecting the Cameroons, and at the request of the Prime Minister it may attach a representative of the Cameroonian Government to the French delegation.

[d] When the Visiting Mission's report was first distributed, the final text of these Conventions was still not available; the changes made in the draft Conventions were set out in document T/1434 of 4 February 1959 and have been incorporated in the present text.

The Cameroonian Government shall, within the limits of its internal autonomy, take all necessary measures to give effect to the international treaties, conventions and agreements applicable to the Cameroons on the date of the entry into force of the Statute to which this Convention is annexed, and also to any other international treaties, conventions and agreements ratified by the French Government and on which it is consulted before application.

The French Government shall ensure that the Cameroons enjoys, to the fullest possible extent, the advantages which may result from the treaties, conventions and agreements it concludes, and, more particularly, those advantages which the Treaty establishing the European Economic Community is likely to entail for the Cameroons in such matters as marketing and investment.

Article 6. In the discharge of the responsibilities assumed in foreign policy and frontier security by the French Government, the High Commissioner shall issue passports, at the instance of the Cameroonian Government.

He shall receive any assistance and information required for the exercise of these prerogatives from the Cameroonian Government and he may delegate any necessary powers within the framework of the instructions concerning the issue of passports.

A Mixel Commission, established by order of the High Commissioner and composed of representatives of the Cameroonian Government and representatives of the Office of the High Commissioner, shall make recommendations concerning temporary residence, entry and exit permits, in accordance with the conditions to be established by mutual agreement. The Commission shall meet alternately under the chairmanship of the High Commissioner and of the Prime Minister or of their delegates.

The High Commissioner of the French Republic and the Prime Minister, Head of the Cameroonian Government, may, notwithstanding the provisions of article 2, paragraph 3, of the Statute, by joint order, expel non-Cameroonian nationals, after consulting the Mixed Commission aforementioned.

Article 7. The Cameroonian Government agrees that the High Commissioner of the French Republic shall obtain, through it, technical advice from specialists of the Cameroonian services for the examination of problems falling within the scope of his jurisdiction.

The Cameroonian Government shall, through the High Commissioner, avail itself of the specialized services of the French Government and obtain any technical advice it may require.

Article 8. Any laws, decrees, orders, ordinances (*actes*) and instructions falling within the jurisdiction of the central organs of the French Republic shall, after promulgation by the High Commissioner, be published in the *Journal officiel* of the State of the Cameroons and any orders, ordinances and instructions issued by the High Commissioner himself in the exercise of the powers reserved to him shall also be so published. Texts to be published in the *Journal officiel* shall be communicated to the Prime Minister.

TITLE II

Transfers and financial co-operation

Article 9. Save as otherwise provided, the following services shall be transferred in application of the new Statute and shall accordingly be financed from the Cameroonian budget :

The delegations of Douala and Garoua;
The administrative *circonscriptions*;
The judiciary service and the judicial police;
The administrative courts;
The security services;
The general inspection of labour;
The broadcasting services;
The port authorities;

Article 10. As from 1 January 1959, the Cameroonian Government shall be responsible for the management of the staff transferred to it.

Article 11. The Treasury and Finance Departments of the French Republic shall continue to furnish to the State of the Cameroons the services referred to in articles 26 and 50 of decree No. 57-501, of 16 April 1957, in the conditions therein laid down.

Article 12. Any movable or immovable property belonging to the State of the Cameroons and required for the operation of the public services of the French Republic shall be assigned by the Cameroonian Government to the French Republic.

Conversely, any movable or immovable property belonging to the French Republic and required for the operation of the public services of the Cameroonian Government shall be assigned by the French Government to the State of the Cameroons.

Such transfers shall be embodied in an annexed protocol to be signed by the High Commissioner of the French Republic and by the Prime Minister, Head of the Cameroonian Government, due regard being had to the transfer of staff and services.

Article 13. Land on which buildings have been erected that are maintained by means of budgetary appropriations of the French Republic or of French State organs enjoying budgetary autonomy shall be subject to a right of surface as defined in article 20 of the decree of 21 July 1932 on the land tenure registration system in the Cameroons. A special entry in respect of this right shall be made in the land register.

The Cameroonian Government shall have the right of pre-emption in respect of any buildings erected on a site subject to a surfact right, and the French Government shall not dispose of such site to any third parties except with the consent of the Cameroonian Government.

Article 14. Where repartition affects buildings used by government services which have been leased to third parties under an agreement, the leases shall be assigned by the State of the Cameroons to the French Republic, or *vice versa*. Such assignment shall be made at the instance of the lessee with the lessor's consent.

The assignment shall be made not later than the date on which the renting agreement expires.

Article 15. The costs of upkeep of the premises assigned to the French Republic shall be borne by the French Republic, and *vice versa*.

Article 16. Any vehicles transferred to the French Republic shall be registered free of charge in the name of the French Republic in the ordinary registration category.

Article 17. The non-military services of the French Republic and the services of the State of the Cameroons shall account to each other on an exchange basis for services rendered. Such accounting shall be in accordance with the rules governing the provision of services, it being understood that additional charges shall in no case be made for services rendered to bodies not maintained out of Cameroonian and French public funds.

Article 18. This Convention shall enter into force on the date on which ordinance No. 58-1375, of 30 December 1958, setting forth the Statute of the Cameroons, is published in the *Journal officiel* of the State of the Cameroons.

B. CONVENTION CONCERNING THE STATUS OF PERSONNEL EMPLOYED IN THE CAMEROONS IN THE SERVICES OF THE FRENCH REPUBLIC AND IN THE SERVICES OF THE STATE OF THE CAMEROONS

TITLE I

French personnel seconded to, or placed at the disposal of, the Cameroonian Government

Article 1. The Government of the French Republic undertakes to make all necessary arrangements within the limits of its resources to assist the Cameroonian Government by providing such staff as the latter may find it necessary to request.

Article 2. The following staff may be placed at the disposal of the Cameroonian Government.

Officials of the State and of the Ministry of Overseas France;

Officials of the civil services of the overseas territories or groups of territories;

Officials of the State, of *départements*, of communes and of public establishments and officials of the constitutional assemblies;

Judicial officers.

Article 3. Personnel under the authority of the Minister for Overseas France shall be seconded by that Minister.

Other personnel shall be seconded to the Minister for Overseas France by the department to which they belong with a view to their being placed at the disposal of the Cameroonian Government.

Article 4. Officials seconded to the Cameroonian Government or placed at its disposal shall continue to enjoy the rights deriving from their appointments in the branch of the civil service from which they were seconded, in particular in so far as concerns remuneration, social benefits, travel and transportation for themselves and their families, and leave, while serving overseas.

The Cameroonian Government shall, however, be free to adjust end-of-assignment leave provided that the leave entitlement of the officials concerned for the entire period of their secondment is taken into account.

Officials seconded or made available shall continue to enjoy, in so far as concerns the department from which they were seconded, the guarantees provided for in the general regulations and in the special regulations applicable to them, which shall continue to apply, the pension scheme to which they belong, the rules concerning their re-employment on the expiry of their secondment, and the guarantees concerning normal advancement in the service.

In so far as concerns the pension scheme, service with the Cameroonian Government shall be deemed to be service in a permanent branch of the civil service overseas.

Article 5. The period for which personnel are seconded or made available shall be not less than two years and not more than five years, subject to renewal. The Cameroonian Government may at any time, subject to not less than one month's notice to the High Commissioner of the French Republic and to the official concerned, place the seconded official at the disposal of the Minister for Overseas France, provided that his salary shall be paid by the Cameroonian Government until the expiry of his leave entitlement and for a period of not less than six months reckoned from the date on which he is placed at the disposal of the Minister for Overseas France.

If the official is on leave on the date on which he is placed at the disposal of the Minister for Overseas France, no notice shall be required. The official shall, however, be notified of the decision, and the period of six months referred to above shall be reckoned from the date of notification.

If, however, the official is re-employed by his original department before the expiry of such period, the Minister for Overseas France shall so inform the Prime Minister, Head of the Cameroonian Government, and the State of the Cameroons shall be released from the financial obligations aforementioned, without prejudice to its liability in respect of any leave entitlement.

On the expiry of the period for which they were seconded or made available, such officials shall, if not re-employed by the Cameroonian Government, be reinstated as of right in the branch of the service from which they were seconded.

Article 6. Officials seconded to the Cameroonian Government or placed at its disposal shall be paid out of the budget of the State of the Cameroons, which shall also pay the share of the retirement pension contribution payable from the budget of the employer administration.

The difference between the total remuneration payable by the State of the Cameroons, calculated on the basis of the personal coefficient of the official concerned, on the one hand, and the total remuneration to which the latter would be entitled in overseas service on the basis of his personal coefficient under French regulations, on the other hand, shall be charged to the budget of the French Republic.

The charge thus borne by the French Government shall not exceed the maximum amount payable under the increases which took effect on 1 January 1957 in the salary or pay scales and supplementary salary or pay scales applicable to the branch of the service to which the official belongs.

Article 7. Officials of the metropolitan civil service at present serving in the Cameroons as personnel seconded to the general branches listed in tables I and II annexed to decree No. 51-510, of 5 May 1951, shall continue to be classified in those branches, and as such may be placed at the disposal of the Cameroonian Government.

The conditions and arrangements provided for in articles 5 and 6 shall apply *mutatis mutandis* to officials made available as provided in this article.

Article 8. Periodic reports on the service of officials seconded to the Cameroonian Government shall be transmitted by the Prime Minister to the High Commissioner of the French Republic at the intervals normal in the branches of the service to which the officials belong.

Article 9. In the case of misconduct in their new posts, officials so seconded shall continue to be subject to the disciplinary regulations applicable to the branch of the service to which they belong and consequently to the authority competent to impose administrative penalties on officials belonging to that branch.

The Cameroonian Government may return seconded officials to the department from which they were seconded and, if it deems it necessary to do so, request that disciplinary proceedings be instituted against them in accordance with the applicable regulations.

It shall in any case supply the competent administrative authority with any necessary information for the investigation of the case.

In cases of misconduct which may render the official liable to disciplinary penalties, the leave entitlement alone shall remain a charge on the budget of the State of the Cameroons, the other rights of notice being reserved pending the decision of the competent authority in regard to such misconduct.

If the competent authority finds the official guilty, the State of the Cameroons shall be released from any financial obligations in regard to the required period of notice.

TITLE II

Cameroonian personnel placed at the disposal of the French Government

Article 10. With a view to providing for the participation of Cameroonian citizens in the operation of the services of the French Republic in the Cameroons, officials of the Cameroonian civil service may be employed in the services for which the High Commissioner is responsible.

Article 11. Officials of the Cameroonian civil service designated for such employment shall be placed at the disposal of the High Commissioner by the Prime Minister. They shall be paid out of the budget of the French Republic and shall continue to receive the remuneration to which they are entitled in the Cameroonian civil service, to the regulations of which they shall continue to be subject.

Article 12. Reports on the service of the officials referred to in articles 10 and 11 shall be transmitted annually to the Prime Minister by the High Commissioner.

Article 13. The French Government may at any time return officials placed at its disposal in accordance with articles 10 and 11 to the Cameroonian Government, subject to not less than one month's notice, to the Prime Minister and the official concerned, provided that the salary of such officials shall be paid from the French budget until the expiry of their leave entitlement and for a period of not less than six months from the date on which they were returned.

If, however, such officials are re-employed by their original department before the expiry of such period, the Prime Minister shall so inform the High Commissioner, and the French Republic shall be released from the financial obligations aforementioned, without prejudice to its liability in respect of any leave entitlement.

Article 14. On being returned to their original department, the officials referred to in article 11 shall be re-employed in a post corresponding to their grade in the branch to which they belong.

Article 15. In the case of the officials referred to in article 11, the deduction provided for in the regulations of the pension fund to which they belong shall be made from the pay applicable to their rank and grade.

A complementary contribution, calculated on the same basis, shall be paid from the budget of the employer administration.

Article 16. In the case of misconduct in their new posts, officials placed at the disposal of the High Commissioner shall continue to be subject to the disciplinary regulations applicable to the branch of the service to which they belong and consequently to the authority competent to impose administrative penalties on officials belonging to that branch.

The High Commissioner may return any official to the department from which he was seconded and, if he deems it necessary to do so, request that disciplinary proceedings be instituted against him in accordance with the applicable regulations.

He shall in any case supply the competent administrative authority with any information necessary for the investigation of the case.

In the case of misconduct which may render the official liable to disciplinary penalties, the leave entitlement alone shall remain a charge on the budget of the French State, the other rights of notice being reserved pending the decision of the competent authority in regard to such misconduct.

If the competent authority finds the official guilty, the French Republic shall be released from any financial obligations in regard to the required period of notice.

TITLE III

French personnel belonging to the higher and local branches of the Cameroons civil service

Article 17. Officials of Cameroonian nationality who belong to the higher and local branches of the civil services of French Overseas Territories shall enjoy the benefit of the provisions of article 9 of amended decree No. 56-1228, of 3 December 1956; similarly, officials of French nationality who belong to the present higher and local branches of the Cameroons civil service shall be incorporated as of right in the Cameroonian civil service in accordance with the relevant regulations laid down by the Cameroonian Government.

The application of the above provision shall in no case have the effect of reducing the remuneration and the social benefits of the personnel concerned to a level lower than that which they previously enjoyed or of hampering their advancement in the service in accordance with the regulations in force.

If measures are taken by the French Government to incorporate such personnel, individually or as a group, the Cameroonian Government undertakes not to prevent the officials concerned from making application to receive the benefit of such measures.

TITLE IV

Military personnel

Article 18. The provisions of articles 1 to 9 of this Convention shall apply *mutatis mutandis* to military personnel detached from their units and placed at the disposal of, or seconded to, the Cameroonian Government, including personnel of the Army Medical Corps, taking into account the special regulations applicable to overseas service by such personnel.

TITLE V

Miscellaneous provisions

Article 19. The French personnel in the categories enumerated in article 2 serving with the Cameroonian Government on the date of the signature of this Convention and officials of the Cameroonian civil service employed in the services of the Office of the High Commissioner on the same date shall automatically acquire the status applicable to them under this Convention, all of whose provisions shall apply to them.

However, within six months after the date of the entry into force of this Convention, officials serving in the services transferred in application of the new Statute may be placed at the disposal of the Ministry of Overseas France by the Cameroonian Government, subject to one month's notice, notwithstanding the provisions of article 5 and without prejudice to its liability to pay in respect of any leave entitlement.

Under the same conditions, such officials may request that they be placed at the disposal of the Ministry of Overseas France and such request shall be granted.

Article 20. A seconded official may terminate his secondment by applying, through the Cameroonian authority to which he has been seconded, to be returned to his original department, either for personal or for family reasons.

Application must be made at least two months in advance.

If the application is granted, the leave entitlement alone shall be a charge on the budget of the State of the Cameroons.

Article 21. The High Commissioner of the French Republic may, on the advice of the Prime Minister, the Head of the Cameroonian Government, *ex officio* order the return to his original department of a seconded official whose conduct and attitude are considered prejudicial to the mission and prestige of France.

In such case, the leave entitlement alone shall be a charge on the budget of the State of the Cameroons.

Article 22. The regulations regarding special assignments shall continue to apply to the French officials to whom this Convention refers.

Article 23. The date of the entry intro force of this Convention shall be the date of publication in the *Journal officiel* of the State of the Cameroons of ordinance No. 58-1375, of 30 December 1958, setting forth the Statute of the Cameroons.

C. Convention concerning defence, public order and the use of the gendarmerie

TITLE I

Defence

Article 1. The defence of the State of the Cameroons shall be the responsibility of the High Commissioner of the Republic and shall be ensured by the French armed forces.

Accordingly, the said forces shall take the necessary measures to maintain the integrity of the Territory and to protect its peoples and material resources against the dangers of external aggression and against such acts of internal subversion as may impair the security of the State of the Cameroons.

Article 2. The French armed forces shall comprise:

(1) *Gendarmerie* forces:

Officer personnel;

Gendarmerie personnel assigned to stations and detachments;

Mobile squads of auxiliary *gendarmes*, other than the mobile squads of auxiliary guards transferred to the Cameroonian police.

(2) Army, naval and air force units.

Article 3. The French armed forces shall be granted all the facilities necessary for the discharge of their functions. They shall in particular have the right to garrison, station, train and move personnel and to travel throughout the territory of the State of the Cameroons.

Any modification or further expansion of the present system of garrisons and permanent military camps shall take place upon consultation with the Cameroonian Government.

Article 4. The State of the Cameroons shall contribute to the maintenance of international peace and security; to that end, it shall participate in the formulation of local measures relating to the organization of defence and shall ensure their execution, so far as its resources permit and subject to compensation where necessary.

For the purpose of ensuring the formulation of such measures and their co-ordinated execution, a Permanent Secretariat of Defence shall be established under the High Commissioner of the French Republic. The Prime Minister shall designate a representative who shall be entrusted, under his authority, with maintaining constant liaison with this body.

Article 5. The Cameroonian Government shall consult the High Commissioner of the French Republic in the Cameroons concerning applications for prospecting licences or for the purchase or sub-lease of licences or concessions with respect to mineral substances classified as defence materials, and concerning permits to place such substances in circulation.

The High Commissioner may, with respect to these matters, draw the attention of the Cameroonian Government to the adverse effects of any decisions it may take which might prove gravely prejudicial to the common defence interests.

The Cameroonian Government undertakes to give the most serious consideration to any observations of this nature made by the High Commissioner.

In the event of disagreement, the dispute shall be submitted by either party to arbitration by the French Government, which shall render its award in consultation with the *Conseil d'Etat*.

The following shall henceforth be classified as defence materials:

Hydrocarbons in the solid, liquid or gaseous state;

Uranium, thorium, lithium, beryllium and helium ores and their compounds.

This list is not restrictive; it may be amended by mutual agreement in the light of the prevailing circumstances.

Article 6. The supervision of postal, telegraphic, telephonic and wireless communications required for defence purposes shall be regulated by special conventions and technical agreements to be concluded between the Governments concerned.

TITLE II

Public order

Article 7. Except when a "state of exception" (*état d'exception*) has been proclaimed under the provisions of article 24 of the Statute, the maintenance and restoration of public order shall be the exclusive responsibility of the Cameroonian Government and shall be ensured throughout the Territory by the forces specifically entrusted with that function as indicated in article 9 below.

Article 8. The maintenance and restoration of public order shall include the protection of persons and property, the enforcement of laws and regulations, and the suppression of internal disturbances.

Article 9. The forces for the maintenance of order shall comprise, in addition to the Cameroonian police, *gendarmerie* personnel which have been seconded or placed at the disposal of the Cameroonian Government under the conditions laid down in title III.

TITLE III

Principles governing the operations and employment of the Gendarmerie *and its relations with the constituteda uthorities*

Article 10. Gendarmerie personnel may be placed at the disposal of the Cameroonian Government at the latter's request for the purpose of providing an officer corps for the Cameroonian guard. Such personnel shall be regarded as having been seconded. They shall retain their uniform and shall be under the jurisidiction of the French Department of National Defence in all matters pertaining to promotion, discipline and administration in general. Accordingly, they shall be subject to inspection by the general officers holding the positions of Inspector General of the Gendarmerie and Inspector of the Overseas Gendarmerie respectively (*Général Inspecteur-Général de la Gendarmerie et Général-Inspecteur de la Gendarmerie Outre-Mer*).

They shall also be granted the status of seconded personnel laid down in the Convention concerning personnel.

Article 11. The necessary *gendarmerie* personnel assigned to detachments and stations and the necessary officer personnel shall be placed at the permanent and direct disposal of the Cameroonian Government for the purpose of ensuring the protection of persons and property and the enforcement of laws and regulations, and in order to assist the administrative and judicial authorities.

The system of *gendarmerie* detachments and stations in the Cameroons shall conform to the administrative and judicial system in the Territory.

No changes may be made in the present system until agreement has been reached between the Cameroonian and French Governments.

Article 12. The *gendarmerie* personnel placed at the disposal of the Cameroonian Government shall participate in defence and military-police functions and in the administration of reserve forces; accordingly, they shall remain subject to the authority of the High Commissioner of the French Republic.

If the High Commissioner deems it expedient, over and above the responsibilities devolving upon him under articles 22 and 24 of the Statute, for the discharge of which the *gendarmerie* is to remain subject to his authority, to assign duties to the said *gendarmerie* involving the use of units whose personnel is drawn from the *gendarmerie* detachments and stations, he shall keep the Cameroonian Government informed of such action and shall ensure that the normal operation of the *gendarmerie* is not seriously impaired thereby.

Article 13. The *gendarmerie* personnel placed at the disposal of the Cameroonian Government shall retain their uniform and shall remain subject to the regulations and organizational statutes of the French *gendarmerie*, the operational principles of which they shall apply.

The rules governing the employment of such personnel may not be altered without the consent of the French Government.

Article 14. All the provisions of order No. 6,130, of 13 September 1956, regulating *gendarmerie* service in the Cameroons, shall remain applicable wherever they do not conflict with the provisions of this Convention. The powers vested in the High Commissioner by the said order shall, except for those indicated in article 10, be transferred to the Cameroonian Government.

Requisitions issued by the Cameroonian authorities shall be drawn up on behalf of the Cameroonian people.

Appeals lodged by officers commanding *gendarmerie* units under the provisions, *inter alia*, of articles 8, 16 and 23 of the aforementioned order may be submitted to the Prime Minister and, in the event of continuing disagreement, to the High Commissioner and the Government of the French Republic.

Article 15. This Convention shall enter into force on the date of the publication in the *Journal officiel* of the State of the Cameroons of ordinance No. 58-1375, of 30 December 1958, setting forth the Statute of the Cameroons.

D. Judicial Convention

TITLE V

The judicial system

Article 1. This Convention shall apply exclusively to the courts of modern law hitherto known as courts of French law and established under the provisions of the decree of 27 November 1947 and the Act of 15 December 1952, without prejudice to any subsequent modifications of the said courts.

It shall not apply to the courts of traditional law hitherto known as indigenous courts or courts of local law which were established under the provisions of the decrees of 31 July 1927 and 26 July 1944 and include the Special Ratification Chamber (*Chambre spéciale d'homologation*), the courts of first and second degree, the customary courts and the conciliation courts.

Article 2. The judicial system shall be defined by Cameroonian law.

Justice shall be administered on behalf of the Cameroonian people. Accordingly, sentences shall be pronounced and executed on behalf of the Cameroonian people.

The President of the French Republic shall continue to exercise the right of pardon on the recommendation of the Cameroonian Government, which shall transmit the records of the proceedings.

Article 3. The judicial branch of the Government shall be independent of the administrative and legislative branches.

Judges shall be irremovable. Decisions of the Cameroonian Government concerning them shall be taken on the concurrent advice of the majority of a six-member commission, which shall include the President of the Court of Appeal, who shall be its Chairman. This Commission shall be required to include three judicial officers seconded by the French Government to the courts at Yaoundé, who shall be those with the greatest seniority in the highest rank in their professional category, and three officers designated by the Minister of Justice.

In accordance with the principle of irremovability, judges may not be assigned to another post without their consent except where the exigencies of continuity of service call for replacement duty or other temporary duty. The concurrent advice of the Commission provided for above shall be required in either case.

The principle of irremovability shall not apply to officials who perform administrative duties as well as those of a magistrate. It shall not preclude the return to their original duties of officials temporarily assigned to the duties of a judicial officer.

Article 4. The operation of the courts shall be entrusted to judicial officers appointed by the Cameroonian Government. The statute governing judicial officers may be submitted to the *Conseil d'Etat* for its opinion.

Only applicants who are licensed to practise law may be appointed judicial officers. In exceptional cases, however, and under the conditions laid down by the statute, the Cameroonian Government may appoint to certain posts applicants having adequate qualifications and professional experience.

Article 5. The head of the judicial department of the Ministry of Justice shall be a judicial officer.

TITLE II

Judicial appeal

Article 6. The appeals provided for by law against judgements and decisions given by Cameroonian courts of final instance shall be lodged with the Court of Cassation in the manner and within the time-limits prescribed by the rules of that court.

Article 7. Appeals against judicial decisions rendered in administrative matters may be lodged with the *Conseil d'Etat*, in the manner and within the time-limits prescribed by the rules of the court.

Article 8. The Court of Cassation and the *Conseil d'Etat* shall remain seized of appeals lodged before the date of the entry into force of this Convention.

Article 9. Cases the decision on which has been quashed on appeal shall be referred to a Cameroonian court of a different composition.

TITLE III

Special status of judicial personnel placed at the disposal of the State of the Cameroons

Article 10. With a view to enabling the Cameroonian Government to maintain its courts and the administration of justice, the French Government undertakes to place at its disposal such judicial officers as it may require.

Article 11. The French judicial officers made available by the French Government shall be seconded to the State of the Cameroons from the French civil service establishment for a period of two years, subject to renewal.

In its request for the secondment of a judicial officer, the Cameroonian Government shall specify the duties which it proposes to entrust to him, and the place and court or department where he is to serve. Such secondment shall take place only with the formal consent of the Cameroonian Government.

In no circumstances, except in the case of temporary delegation of duties, shall a seconded judicial officer be entrusted with judicial duties giving him authority over judicial officers of a rank higher than his own in his professional category.

Apart from the duties specified in the terms of secondment, a judicial officer may not be required to perform duties other than those normally undertaken by members of the judiciary.

Article 12. Seconded judicial officers shall enjoy the independence, immunities, safeguards, privileges, rank and prerogatives to which similar duties would entitle them in France.

Decisions of the Cameroonian Government concerning seconded judicial officers who are irremovable shall be taken on the concurrent advice of the Commission provided for in article 3.

The Cameroonian Government shall protect seconded judicial officers against threats, insults, defamation and attacks of any kind whatever to which they may be subjected in the exercice of their duties and shall make good any resulting injury.

The said officers may not be harassed in any way because of decisions in which they have participated, utterances they have made in court or acts relating to their duties.

No proceedings in respect of offences or crimes may be instituted against a seconded judicial officer except on the concurrent advice of the Commission provided for in article 3, the Chairman having a casting vote in the event of a tie. Where such proceedings are instituted, the High Commissionner shall be kept informed and the judicial officer being prosecuted shall be entitled to trial in the court specified in the laws applicable at the time of the entry into force of this Convention.

Article 13. A seconded judicial officer shall remain entitled to a leave of absence of two months annually and of five months every fifth year. The Cameroonian Government may, however, refuse to grant annual leave outside the three-month period when the courts are in recess, except in the case of a judicial officer who was on recess duty during the preceding recess.

A judicial officer shall have the choice of taking the aforementioned leave either in France or in his country of origin.

However, where the cost of travelling to his country of origin exceeds that of travelling to France, he shall not be entitled to travel to his country of origin except on the occasion of the five months, leave granted to him every five years.

Article 14. The Cameroonian Government may not return a seconded judicial officer to the service of the French Government before the expiry of the normal period of secondment except upon the advice of the Commission described in article 3, in the case of an officer other than a judge, or on the concurrent advice of the said Commission, in the case of a judge.

The decision to consult the Commission shall be communicated to the High Commissioner of the French Republic and to the judicial officer concerned at least fifteen days before the Commission meets. The officer concerned shall have the right to appear before the Commission if he so requests. He shall in all cases be informed of the grounds given for calling in the Commission. The complete documentation of the case shall be communicated to him at least eight clear days before the Commission meets. The Commission's advice shall be transmitted to the French Government with the decision of the Cameroonian Government.

Article 15. A seconded officer may terminate his secondment under the conditions laid down in article 20 of the Convention concerning the status of French personnel employed in the administration of the State of the Cameroons. In that case, his request shall be submitted to the Commission described in article 3, which shall draw up an opinion containing a statement of the grounds on which its conclusions are based, and the said opinion shall be transmitted to the French Government by the Cameroonian Government.

Article 16. Seconded officers shall continue to be governed by the statutory provisions relevant to them, subject, to the provisions of this Convention.

A mission shall be sent annually, at French expense, for the purpose of considering problems relating to the service in which the officers were originally employed. The Cameroonian Government shall facilitate the work of the mission.

Article 17. In all other respects, the rules applicable to officials of the French civil service establishment seconded to the Cameroons shall automatically apply to seconded judicial officers. Subject to these provisions, the said officers shall have the same duties and the same rights as Cameroonian judicial officers.

Article 18. This Convention shall enter into force on the date of the publication in the *Journal officiel* of the State of the Cameroons of ordinance No. 58-1375, of 30 December 1958, establishing the Statute of the Cameroons.

E. CONVENTION CONCERNING CURRENCY AND EXTERNAL TRADE

Article 1. The matters covered by those provisions of articles 23 and 27 of ordinance No. 58-1375, of 30 December 1958, establishing the Statute of the Cameroons, which relate to currency, foreign exchange, joint economic and financial policy and foreign trade shall be the following:

The definition of the currency unit, the fixing of currency equivalents, the control of foreign exchange and the co-ordination of foreign trade;

The issue of banknotes and coin currency entrusted to the Issuing Institute of French Equatorial Africa and the Cameroons, in the management and supervision of which the State of the Cameroons shall continue to take part;

The regulation and organization of banking activities in the private sector and the supervision of credits, which is within the competence of the Franc Area Currency Committee, whereon the State of the Cameroons shall be represented;

No decision concerning the establishment in the State of the Cameroons of credit institutions, or the extension of their agencies, shall be taken without the prior consent of the Government of the Cameroons.

Article 2. The Cameroonian authorities shall determine the conditions governing their appointment of representatives to the Board of Management and the Audit Board of the Issuing Institute of French Equatorial Africa and the Cameroons.

The Minister for Overseas France shall be kept informed of those appointments, so that he may give the necessary notice thereof.

The Cameroonian authorities shall determine the conditions governing the use of funds arising from payments made to the Treasury by the Issuing Institute of French Equatorial Africa and the Cameroons, in accordance with article 4 of the decree of 20 January 1955.

Article 3. A representative of the State of the Cameroons shall serve on the franc area Currency Committee and the State of the Cameroons shall be represented on all bodies concerned with the foreign exchange policy of the franc zone.

Article 4. Before any authorizations for foreign investments in the State of the Cameroons and for Cameroonian investments abroad are issued under the foreign exchange regulations by the foreign exchange control authorities, they shall be submitted to the Government of the State of the Cameroons for its consent.

Article 5. Officers of the customs services of the State of the Cameroons and officers of Cameroonian financial departments to whom fiscal documents may be communicated may, on their own initiative or at the request of the High Commissioner of the French Republic, report violations of the foreign exchange laws and regulations.

The Prime Minister of the State of the Cameroons, or his delegate, shall be empowered, as shall the Minister of Finance of the French Republic, or his delegate, to institute proceedings in cases of violation of exchange legislation and regulations. They shall keep in close communication.

Article 6. In accordance with the provisions of article 5 of the Convention concerning the exercise of reserve powers, the French Government shall be responsible for ensuring that the interests of the Cameroons are duly represented and protected during the negotiation of international agreements concerning customs, problems and trade. In cases where the agreement concerned is of particular interest to the Cameroons, the Government of the Cameroons shall at its own request participate in the negotiations through a representative who shall form part of the French delegation.

Article 7. The importation into the Cameroons of goods originating in countries outside the franc area shall be effected under a general import programme prepared on the proposal of the Government of the Cameroons with due regard for the economic interests of the different members of the franc area.

The choice of recipients of licences issued within the limits of the quotas stipulated in import programmes and trade agreements shall be within the competence of the Cameroonian Government; the endorsement of the Foreign Exchange Office shall merely confirm the availability of credit and due compliance with foreign exchange regulations and payment agreements.

Article 8. Trade between the French customs territory or the French overseas countries and territories on the one part and the Cameroons on the other part shall continue to be governed by the rules at present in force.

In exceptional cases, however, departures from the system of trade referred to in the preceding paragraph may be authorized by express agreement of the two Governments.

Article 9. With a view to enabling the French Republic to co-ordinate the general customs regulations of the Cameroons with those of the other countries and territories of the franc area and to ensure that they are in agreement, the Cameroonian Government shall notify the French Government of any step it intends to take which might alter the customs regulations at present in force. Such alterations may not constitute an empediment to the general policy of the franc area in customs questions.

The French Government shall ensure compliance with international agreements and obligations in such matters, as also with the rules governing external trade and foreign exchange in everything that concerns the implementation of individual conventions and frontier traffic.

Article 10. The Cameroons shall have the benefit of marketing arrangements and financial assistance with respect to tropical products on the same conditions as the other producing countries and territories of the franc area. It shall have the same right to representation on all bodies set up to ensure co-ordination in these matters as the other countries or territories of the franc area.

Article 11. The Cameroonian Government shall transmit the relevant documents to the special departments set up for this purpose by the French Government in sufficient time to enable that Government to undertake the duties devolving upon it under the Statute and under this Convention.

Article 12. A Commission composed of representatives of the Cameroonian Government and representatives of the French Government in equal numbers, under the chairmanship, alternately, of the Prime Minister of the State of the Cameroons and the High Commissioner of the French Republic or of their representatives, shall be responsible for observing the application of the provisions of article 7 *et seq.* of this Convention. It shall meet at the request of either Contracting Party and not less than once a year.

Article 13. This Convention shall enter into force on the date of the publication in the *Journal officiel* of the State of the Cameroons of ordinance No. 58-1375, of 30 December 1958, establishing the Statute of the Cameroons.

F. CULTURAL CONVENTION

TITLE I

Co-operation between the Government of the French Republic and the Government of the State of the Cameroons in teaching and cultural activities

Article 1. The Government of the State of the Cameroons shall direct and administer the educational services at all levels and shall organize every type of cultural activity.

Article 2. French being the official language of the State of the Cameroons, the Government of the French Republic undertakes to make available to the Government of the State of the Cameroons, at its request, such trained personnel as it may require for teaching of every kind, school inspection, the supersivion of competitive and other examinations and, if necessary, for administrative services.

For its part, the Government of the Cameroons shall grant teachers and members of boards of examiners all the safeguards and facilities necessary for the performance of their duties.

Article 3. The Government of the State of the Cameroons undertakes to provide in its establishments, for the benefit of students desiring to follow French educational programmes, courses based on those programmes and leading to the award of French certificates. The Government of the French Republic undertakes to recognize, throughout the Territory of the Republic and without imposing any further requirement, the degrees, diplomas and certificates issued under the supervision of qualified personnel and in accordance with the conditions laid down by French regulations.

Article 4. Degrees, diplomas and certificates issued by the authorities of the State of the Cameroons otherwise than by the procedure specified in article 3 may, by bilateral agreement, be recognized as equivalent to French degrees, diplomas and certificates.

Article 5. The Government of the French Republic shall make available to the Government of the State of the Cameroons such technicians, experts and research workers as it may require in accordance with the provisions of article 2 above and subject to the conditions to be laid down in a convention concerning

scientific research, and shall assist in the organization and operation of present or future Cameroonian institutions for higher education, studies and research.

In particular, in the event of the foundation of a Cameroonian university, the French Government will help to establish it and to promote its development by making available to the Cameroonian Government any teaching staff for which that Government may ask. The French Government shall be entitled to endow professorships.

Article 6. The provisions of the Convention concerning the status of French civil servants placed at the disposal of the State of the Cameroons shall apply to teachers engaged in the circumstances set out in article 2 who possess the necessary university qualifications but who are not on the metropolitan or general teaching establishment.

TITLE II

Reciprocal measures

Article 7. Nationals of the French Republic and of the State of the Cameroons shall enjoy full liberty in intellectual and artistic matters in the Territory of the other State, subject to the observance of public order and morality. The admission, circulation and distribution of intellectual and artistic works of each of the two countries shall be guaranteed and as far as possible fostered in the Territory of the other.

Article 8. Subject to observance of public order, morality and the laws of the country concerned, each Contracting Party may open or maintain in the territory of the other Contracting Party educational establishments at all levels providing an education based on its own programmes, standards and methods, and leading up to the award of its own certificates.

Article 9. The Government of the French Republic may set up centres for ordinary and competitive examinations in the Cameroons, at which all candidates resident in the Cameroons may present themselves in accordance with the conditions laid down by French regulations. A corresponding concession is granted to the Cameroonian Government.

Article 10. Nationals of the French Republic and of the State of the Cameroons, both physical and juridical persons, may, with the consent of the competent French or Cameroonian authorities, open or maintain private educational establishments in the territory of the other Contracting Party in conformity with the laws and regulations of that country, particularly in regard to the qualifications required and subject to the conditions prescribed in this Convention and to compliance with the syllabus in force in that country.

Private establishments which have been duly authorized and recognized in accordance with the laws in force on the date of this Convention shall continue to enjoy the authorization previously granted to them.

Article 11. The Government of the French Republic and the Government of the State of the Cameroons shall take the necessary steps to ensure that the institutions of higher education and culture of each Contracting Party are accorded the tax benefits received by the most favoured institutions of the same type of the other Contracting Party under the laws and regulations in force in their respective territories.

Article 12. The Government of the French Republic and the Government of the State of the Cameroons shall foster by every means, and more especially by the establishment of libraries, institutes and cultural centres, the study of their respective languages and civilizations.

Article 13. They will take every step, including the granting of scholarships and loans on trust, to promote attendance at higher educational establishments under their control.

At the request of the Cameroonian Government, the French Government will facilitate the entry of Cameroonian candidates into the French *grandes écoles* in every way consistent with the maintenance of the educational standards required for admission to those institutions.

Similarly, the French Government may organize training courses or seminars reserved for candidates recommended by the Cameroonian Government.

Article 14. The two Governments will also take every opportunity to foster knowledge of their countries' way of life by organizing study-tours, courses for teachers and interchange of teachers, and by the use of audio-visual communication media.

Article 15. The Government of the French Republic and the Government of the State of the Cameroons undertake not to suspend, without prior consultation, their respective contributions to public facilities for higher education and culture available to their nationals.

Article 16. This Convention shall enter into force on the date of the publication in the *Journal officiel* of the State of the Cameroons of ordinance No. 58-1375, of 30 December 1958, establishing the Statute of the Cameroons.

G. CONVENTION ON TECHNICAL CO-OPERATION IN QUESTIONS OF SEA AND RIVER NAVIGATION

Article 1. The French Government undertakes to give technical assistance to the Cameroonian Government in connexion with the local registration of ships and boats, with coastal and river navigation, and in such matters as:

(*a*) The installation and operation of local aids to sea navigation;

(*b*) The settlement of questions concerning the engagement and discharge of seamen, the checking and visaing of crew-lists, the inspection of shipping and labour conditions in ships, regulations concerning discipline and the punishment of offences, and, in general, matters which customarily come under the jurisdiction of *inscription maritime*;

(*c*) The supervision and management of the water areas, berthing facilities, wharves and installations of sea and river ports.

Article 2. In return, the Cameroonian Government undertakes to provide technical assistance to those departments of the French Republic which are responsible in the Cameroons for the administration of inter-state and foreign-going sea transport and for ensuring the observance of the rules of safety at sea.

Article 3. The maritime navigational aids of an international nature for which the French authorities will be responsible shall include the Kribi lighthouse and Buoy A in the approach channel to the port of Douala.

The Cameroonian authorities will be responsible for the local installations.

The French Government undertakes to have the work necessary for the maintenance and operation of the local installations referred to in the preceding paragraph carried out by its buoy-tender, which will continue to be based on Douala.

The Cameroonian Government undertakes to continue to make the buoy depot at Douala available and to place it at the disposal of the French Government for its own needs, free of charge.

Article 4. The French *inscription maritime* department will remain responsible for all questions which customarily come under its authority. It will give the Cameroonian Government

technical assistance in the questions for which that Government is responsible.

Article 5. Payment for all expenditure incurred by French departments concerned with maritime matters shall be met from the supplementary budget for ports and navigable waterways. The amounts for which the French Government is responsible, consisting of expenditure on personnel belonging to the French Government service and to the buoyage service already chargeable to the French budget (pay of the captain and chief engineer of the buoy-tender), together with the cost of stores for the marine navigational aids of an international nature, shall be refunded to the supplementary budget from the French budget. All other expenditure will be chargeable to the supplementary budget.

Article 6. These provisions shall not prevent the French departments concerned with maritime matters from continuing to operate outside the territorial jurisdiction of the Cameroons.

Such additional expenditure shall be financed from the supplementary budget, in which arrangements will be made for raising the corresponding revenue.

Article 7. This Convention shall enter into force on the date of the publication in the *Journal officiel* of the Cameroons of ordinance No. 58-1375, of 30 December 1958, establishing the Statute of the Cameroons.

H. CONVENTION CONCERNING CIVIL AVIATION

Article 1. Within the scope of its domestic autonomy, the Cameroonian Government shall administer the aviation services concerned with air traffic within the Cameroons and all aerodromes other than international airports which may be established in its territory.

It undertakes to respect in its administration the international conventions and agreements to which the Government of the French Republic has acceded, in particular the Chicago Convention and its annexes.

Article 2. The functions of the French civil aviation service placed under the authority of the High Commissioner of the French Republic shall be as follows:

(*a*) To apply, in respect of principal installations, and to assist the Cameroons to apply, in respect of secondary installations, the laws and regulations adopted by the French Government, in particular under international conventions and agreements, to ensure the safety of air navigation and the control of air traffic;

(*b*) To make provision for the equipment and operation of Douala airport and of the aids to air navigation and of the services and installations required for the control of air traffic attached thereto;

(*c*) To make provision, in agreement with the Cameroonian Government, for the construction, equipment and operation of any installations that might appear necessary for international air navigation or for the control of general air traffic;

(*d*) To determine, at the request of the Cameroonian Government, the installations and services for the control of air traffic that may appear necessary for the internal transport of the Cameroons and, in general, to act as technical advisor to the Cameroonian Government for the installation and operation of the air traffic control service that may appear necessary for internal transport within the Cameroons;

(*e*) To make provision, in agreement with the Cameroonian Government, for the organization and operation of search and rescue services and to undertake inquiries into accidents to civil aircraft;

(*f*) To make provision for the organization and control of international transport.

Article 3. The operational expenses of the French civil aviation services shall be borne by the French Government.

The French Government shall also bear the cost of the equipment and operation of Douala airport, the expenses in connexion with the aids to navigation attached thereto and the expenses incurred as a result of the application of article 4 below.

Expenses in connexion with the construction, equipment and operation of any installations and aids to navigation that may appear necessary shall be borne either by the Cameroonian Government or by the French Government, according as they are incurred to meet the needs of internal air transport within the Cameroons or those of air transport between the Cameroons and other countries.

Article 4. For the purposes specified in article 1, the French civil aviation service shall, in particular:

(*a*) Carry out, in agreement with the Cameroonian Government, the preliminary technical studies necessary for the opening to public air traffic of secondary airports; draw up the technical instructions and orders to be complied with by the services responsible for the operation of those airports and of the aids to air navigation attached thereto, and check their application;

(*b*) Make provision for the control of flight equipment in the Cameroons and the supervision of the technical operations of air transport companies, in accordance with the regulations in force and keep the Cameroonian services informed thereof;

(*c*) Supervise the application of the regulations concerning air crews and keep the Cameroonian services informed thereof;

(*d*) Furnish, with the assistance of the Cameroonian Government, all the operational statistics requested by the competent administrations.

The Cameroonian Government may also assign to the French civil aviation service responsibility for operating all or part of the air services within the competence of the Cameroonian Government; in that case, the French civil aviation service shall exercise the relevant functions under the authority of the Cameroonian Government, which shall defray the expenses connected therewith.

Similarly, with the agreement of the Cameroonian Government, tasks which are normally the responsibility of the French aviation service, particularly in the execution of infra-structure work, may be assigned to the Cameroonian service. In that case, such tasks shall be performed under the authority of the French service and the expenses connected therewith shall be borne by the French Government.

Article 5. The Cameroonian Government undertakes to take, within the scope of its domestic autonomy, the measures necessary for the operation of the French civil aviation service.

Among other things, it shall take the necessary measures in the matter of property rights to ensure the development and operation of the principal airfield at Douala, the safety of air navigation and the control of air traffic over Cameroonian territory, in such a manner as to permit, in particular, the maintenance or establishment of servitudes, the introduction of expropriation procedures and the completion of works designed to meet the aforesaid needs.

It shall take the necessary measures regarding reserved zones round major installations, where technical considerations make it essential to impose special rules governing the movement of persons and vehicles and the protection of the installations; such zones shall be specified, after agreement with the Cameroonian Government, by the French civil aviation service, which shall remain responsible for the application of the aforesaid measures within those zones.

Article 6. The two Governments shall consult together with a view to co-ordinating the methods of assessment and collection of the charges levied by operators of airfields in consideration

of services rendered by them to users, as also the scale of such charges.

Each operator shall fix and collect his own charges.

Article 7. The provisions of the Convention of 3 April 1956 concerning the lease of Douala airport are hereby confirmed.

Article 8. The date of the entry into force of this Convention shall be the date of the publication in the *Journal officiel* of the State of the Cameroons of ordinance No. 58-1375, of 30 December 1958, establishing the Statute of the Cameroons.

I. Convention concerning meteorology

Article 1. Within the scope of its domestic autonomy, the Cameroonian Government shall administer the Meteorological Service, in so far as concerns the secondary network and the climatology section. It undertakes to respect, in its administration of this service, the international conventions and agreements to which the Government of the French Republic has acceded.

The expenses connected with this service shall be borne by the Cameroonian budget.

Article 2. The Cameroonian Government entrusts the administration and technical control of the Meteorological Service placed under its authority to the French Meteorological Service. The head of this service shall come directly under the authority of the Cameroonian Government as far as his functions in connexion with the Cameroonian service are concerned.

Article 3. The Meteorological Service comprises, besides the central office and the technical installations at Douala for which it is responsible, a primary network of stations.

This service shall be under the authority of the representative of the French Republic and shall be responsible for:

The application of international meteorological conventions and agreements;

The application, in respect of the primary meteorological network, and assistance to the Cameroons in the application, in respect of the secondary meteorological network, of the laws and regulations adopted by the French Government, in particular under international conventions and agreements;

The preparation, collection and dissemination of meteorological reports for technical and scientific purposes;

Meteorological transmissions for international use and for the use of the service;

The preparation and dissemination of forecasts and analyses;

Meteorological assistance to air and sea navigation.

The costs of operating and equipping the service shall be borne by the French budget.

Article 4. The meteorological data sent in by the eight networks reporting daily shall be collected free of charge by the Cameroonian Postal and Telecommunications Service.

The French Meteorological Service shall provide meteorological assistance free of charge for secondary air and sea navigation.

Article 5. The Cameroonian Government shall take, within the scope of its domestic autonomy, the measures necessary for the operation of the French Meteorological Service, in particular in the matter of property rights and the protection of radiotelegraphic transmissions.

Article 6. The head of the French Meteorological Service in the Cameroons shall be appointed by the French Government with the agreement of the Cameroonian Government; one of his functions shall be to maintain contact with the World Meteorological Organization.

Article 7. The date of the entry into force of this Convention shall be the date of the publication in the *Journal officiel* of the State of the Cameroons of ordinance No. 58-1375, of 30 December 1958, establishing the Statute of the Cameroons.

Annex III

Views of the principal organizations in the Cameroons under French administration about the future oft he Territory

A. Extract from the memorandum presented by the Executive Committee of the Mouvement de l'Union camerounaise

Garoua, 4 December 1958

. . .

In the first place, our party wishes to emphasize the fact that it endorses the action taken by its elected representatives in the Legislative Assembly of the Cameroons. Out of sixty-seven deputies, thirty-four are members of the Union Camerounaise, which means that our party in itself possesses an absolute majority. It goes without saying that the present Government, which was set up by us and which is headed by Ahmadou Ahidjo, our General Chairman, has our full confidence and is unquestionably qualified to represent not only our party but also the people.

For this reason we unanimously approve the action of the Government and the Legislative Assembly in adopting a resolution calling for the independence of the Cameroons on 1 January 1960 and for the termination of the trusteeship on that date.

In our opinion, our accession to independence and the simultaneous termination of the trusteeship should not form the subject of a popular referendum, since the duly constituted authorities in the Cameroons—namely, the Government and the Assembly—have in our name expressed their full agreement with these proposals.

France, the Administering Authority, in full agreement with us and thereby acknowledging the extent of our organizational development, has acted in conjunction with us in requesting the termination of the trusteeship.

As there is thus complete agreement between the Government, the Legislative Assembly and France, there is no point in holding any kind of popular referendum.

In the same circumstances, and with the same object in view, our party has expressed its opinion on reunification. It is in the same spirit and with the support of public opinion that we ask that everygthing should be done to bring about this reunification.

Under the Treaty of Versailles our country was divided into two parts, which were entrusted to France and Great Britain respectively. Our purpose, in asking for reunification, is to restore the territorial unity of our country.

As regards the Cameroons under French administration, our point of view has already been made clear in the resolution adopted by the Legislative Assembly of the Cameroons.

We request the great international body which you represent to decide that a referendum should be held in the Cameroons under British administration before 1 January 1960, in order to permit our fellow-countrymen there to express their wishes about joining us.

We should not like to conclude without mentioning something which is close to the hearts of the members of our party, who cannot forget that the development and progress of our country since 1916 has taken place under the aegis of France and in friendship with that country.

Our members are grateful to France for the great efforts it has made to lead this country out of feudal chaos to the status of a civilized nation.

The Cameroons will be independent on 1 January 1960. That does not mean that we wish to forget those who were more than our benefactors; they were first and foremost our friends.

It is our wish that co-operation between France and the Cameroons should continue to the greatest possible benefit of our country.

Divorce, with or without alimony, is to us unthinkable.

Nor can we accept separation. The child has grown up and is now adult and setting out on the road of life. That is no reason why he should forget his parents.

With regard to the plan for an amnesty, we have full confidence in the Legislative Assembly, which is to take a decision on this matter after 1 January 1959, the date on which the administration of justice, up to then in the hands of the Government of the French Republic, is to be handed over to the Cameroonian Government.

Even though it is conceivable that some of those responsible for the incidents which have been taking place in the Cameroons since 1955 could be regarded as misguided people who might be entitled to a pardon, there are others who have been guilty of crimes against their brethren; it is only right that the criminal law should be made applicable to such people.

To wipe the slate clean would only make for a recurrence of the same incidents. It is important to establish who is responsible, to pardon those who have committed no crime and to insist on the others being made subject to the impartial justice of the courts in the normal way.

B. Motion submitted by the Executive Committee of the Mouvement d'Action nationale du Cameroun

Ebolowa, 19 November 1958

Considering the treaties between Germany and the Cameroons of 12 July 1884, the Treaty of Versailles of 26 June 1919, the treaty of 28 June 1945, the United Nations Charter and the Trusteeship Agreement of 13 December 1946;

Considering the former boundaries of the Cameroons defined, as regards the frontier between the Cameroons and Nigeria, in the Anglo-German agreements of 1 July 1890 and 15 November 1893 and, as regards the frontier between French Equatorial Africa and the Cameroons, in the Franco-German agreement of 4 November 1911;

Considering the United Nations Charter, in particular Article 76 b;

Considering the fact that in the course of their electoral campaign all the deputies elected to the present Legislative Assembly supported independence as the ultimate objective of the Trusteeship System;

Considering the fall of the first Government, which attempted to diverge from this political line;

Considering the views and the programme of the present Government, which programme has been widely disseminated and approved by the people of the Cameroons;

Considering that in order to adhere to its programme the Cameroons did not take part in the French referendum of 28 September 1958;

Considering the motion adopted on 12 June 1958 declaring the choice of the Assembly and the Government for the independence of the country;

Considering the motion of 24 October 1958, adopted by the Assembly upon the proposal of the Government, fixing 1 January 1960 as the date for the accession of the Cameroons to independence with reunification as a preliminary to such independence;

Considering that this point of view is in full accordance with the programme of the Mouvement d'Action nationale du Cameroun;

Considering that the Legislative Assembly and the people who elected it have thus already made their decision;

Considering that the Cameroons will have new burdens to bear and that its economic situation is not such as to allow it to indulge in unnecessary, expensive and pointless referendums;

The Mouvement d'Action nationale du Cameroun, voicing the fervent wishes of the people of the Cameroons,

1. Confirms the choice by the Cameroons of independence and reunification;

2. Calls for reunification before independence;

3. Considers that there is no longer any need for a further popular consultation on this matter;

4. Calls for independence on 1 January 1960;

5. Relies on the understanding and solicitous care of the United Nations in order to achieve the objectives set out in this programme.

C. Extract from the memorandum submitted by the General Chairman of the Parti des Démocrates camerounais [e]

Yaoundé, 17 November 1958

The following are the main problems on which practically the whole of political life in the Cameroons is concentrated at present:

1. The independence of the Cameroons;

2. The liberation of the Cameroonian political prisoners.

With regard to these problems, the Parti des Démocrates camerounais has the honour to submit to the members of the United Nations Visiting Mission the following requests, or rather petitions:

1. *On the subject of independence*

The Parti des Démocrates camerounais stresses that among the essential purposes of the Trusteeship System (Article 76 of the United Nations Charter) particular attention should be paid to the following, which obliges the Administering Authority:

To promote the political, economic, social and educational advancement of the inhabitants of the Trust Territories, and

To promote their progressive development towards self-government or independence.

The Parti des Démocrates camerounais, without going into every detail of these obligations—which for the time being would be wearisome—points out that at the present time the Administering Authority is working against these aims, and particularly against our nation's total independence, not only by meddling in purely Cameroonian affairs but also by inciting

[e] The Démocrates camerounais parliamentary group in the Legislative Assembly submitted a memorandum making similar requests.

and encouraging Cameroonian demagogues to submit petitions which are absolutely contrary to the real wishes of the people.

For example, on 12 June 1958 our Legislative Assembly, abetting the French Government in its fraudulent political manoeuvres, adopted a resolution recognizing the option of the Cameroonian State for independence when the trusteeship comes to an end and the transfer to it of complete responsibility for internal affairs, thus shamelessly violating the terms of the international instruments.

The Parti des Démocrates camerounais has protested and protests again against this resolution, which is both illegal and disastrous for the total independence of the Cameroons.

Again, through the intermediary of the Cameroonian Government, a new statute, embodying a number of pernicious agreements, has just been submitted to our Legislative Assembly by the Administering Authority.

Has the French Government the right to enter into agreements with its ward without informing the nations signatories of the United Nations Charter?

Again, the Administering Authority is doing its utmost to take advantage of the ethnic difference among the people of the Cameroons by setting them against each other, for example the north against the south, and so endangering the future of our nation.

Taking all these facts seriously into consideration, the Parti des Démocrates camerounais wishes the Cameroons to obtain total independence immediately, simultaneously with the termination of the trusteeship, without waiting for 1960,[f] since the Parti des Démocrates camerounais has serious misgivings that during this long waiting period (1958-1960) the representatives of the French Government in the Cameroons will continue to use their influence on the inexperienced peoples of the Northern and Eastern Cameroons with a view to the integration of the Cameroons in the French Community.

If, however, the Visiting Mission considers it inadvisable to advance the abovementioned date, the Parti des Démocrates camerounais requests that during the waiting period any important political action (transfer of powers, agreements, etc.) in connexion with political, economic or social relationships between the Cameroons and the Administering Authority should be compulsorily submitted to United Nations supervision.

The Parti des Démocrates camerounais also requests that any operation relating to the proclamation of the total independence of the Cameroons and the termination of the trusteeship take place under United Nations supervision.

2. On the subject of an amnesty

The Parti des Démocrates camerounais requests the liberation of the Cameroonian political prisoners so that the many citizens who have been incarcerated since 1955 can return to normal civic life and be able to take part, like everyone else, in the country's political life.

. . .

D. Extract from the memorandum submitted by the General Chairman of the Evolution sociale camerounaise (ESOCAM)

Eséka, 23 November 1958

. . .

Once again ESOCAM appeals to the United Nations, present here, to request, in agreement with the French and Cameroonian Governments, the termination of the trusteeship, not regarding it as a yoke but to mark the coming of age of a young nation which has men young and courageous enough to assume the heavy burdens that our independence will lay upon us. ESOCAM is well aware of the dangers which lie in wait on the road to perfection and of the many reforms we must introduce in our usages and customs in order to become a homogeneous nation worthy to take its seat one day beside those nations which have assisted in our evolution and our emancipation, not without heavy sacrifices freely accepted by their sons, a fact which we Cameroonians know well and will never forget.

ESOCAM hopes for the continuance of the moral, technical and financial assistance of France, our guardian, in order that the Cameroons may complete its plans to develop the vital industries which will enable our people to be free and self-supporting in certain fields, like the modern nations. In that respect ESOCAM is convinced that the Cameroons will always be able to count on France and to work to the end that there shall never be any division between our two countries, already united by the blood shed on the field of battle under the same flag.

ESOCAM feels in duty bound to interpret the wishes of the Cameroonian people to you, Sirs, and to inform you of:[g]

1. Our profound desire to see you accomplish the sacred gesture which makes us into men in accordance with the conception of the Declaration of the Rights of Man and of the Citizen.

2. An amnesty for our brothers who allowed themselves to be swept away by the murderous folly of a few demented Cameroonians but who did not take part in the murders and whose families are awaiting them in their villages and their homes.

3. The United Nations, which you represent, in agreement with the Government of the Republic, will help us to be of use in building the Cameroons on a solid basis.

. . .

E. Extract from the memorandum submitted by the General Chairman of the Coordination des Indépendants camerounais (INDECAM)

Edéa, 25 November 1958

. . .

We shall speak briefly of our Territory, but mainly of the situation in Sanaga-Maritime.

At the territorial level

The Cameroons in general desires independence, the unification of the two Cameroons and a total amnesty.

Political plan of INDECAM (security)

Independence cannot be achieved before the termination of the trusteeship, a stage which cannot be skipped (?), if you agree with us. But if that liberty were obtained in the Territory it would fall on stony ground which cannot bear fruit. The present-day Cameroons, which is asking for independence, amnesty and unification, is full of various troubles and to make peace blossom there is an arduous task. For all these reasons INDECAM asks you first of all to take strict security measures to combat Communist agitation, with all its accompaniments, which keeps the Cameroons in a state of constant turmoil. We do not think that either the French Government in the Cameroons or the Cameroonian Government has the strength to put an end to these troubles, but only the United Nations, which should introduce the most strict and severe measures to deal with this serious situation.

In particular in Sanaga-Maritime, Bamiléké and other regions, where underground activities and murders have never stopped, although there are political gatherings which could guide them to a definitive objective, they always pretend to listen to us.

We want the immediate cessation of all the turbulence and violence, which does nothing to help the country towards independence.

With regard to the amnesty, INDECAM has already requested the French and Cameroonian Governments and the Legislative Assembly of the Cameroons to do all they can to intervene in these dangerous cases.

Cameroonian unification

Cameroonian unification has nothing to do with the two foreign Governments, whether French or English. It is well known that the Cameroons was arbitrarily divided by the conquest of 1914 to 1918; it now remains for the two Cameroons to confer as brothers and to decide in favour of unification by common agreement, without anyone else being obliged to unite them. The question is one for themselves.

INDECAM requests the complete dissolution of the Cameroons Legislative Assembly at Yaoundé and its replacement by a Cameroonian constituent assembly.

. . .

F. Extract from the memorandum submitted by the Wouri Federation of the Union sociale camerounaise

Douala, 27 November 1958

. . .

The political evolution which has taken place in the Cameroons since the last United Nations Visiting Mission was there and the changes which it has brought about oblige us to be succint:

Independence. This is the dominant theme of all Cameroonian politics. It has already been won inasmuch as it is scheduled to go into effect on 1 January 1960.

Our Federation entirely agrees with the position taken by the Government and Legislative Assembly of the Cameroons on this matter. It hopes that the United Nations will take all the necessary steps to help the Cameroons at the same time to attain economic independence, an essential condition of genuine sovereignty.

Amnesty. We hope that an amnesty will be proclaimed as early as possible. Above all, we hope that it will be the occasion for reconciliation among all Cameroonians.

Reunification. Everyone knows that the Cameroons was arbitrarily divided in 1911 (*sic*) as the result of a Franco-British agreement. Some families were thus obliged to live under two administrations.

We therefore request the French and United Kingdom Governments to facilitate negotiations between the two Cameroons with a view to their reunification, which should not be contingent upon either an election or a referendum. In that way the two Cameroons will again be one and the unity of families will be restored.

. . .

G. Extract from the memorandum submitted by the Eséka Regional Committee of the Bloc démocratique camerounais (BDC)

Eséka, 23 November 1958

. . .

Today we again address ourselves to the Trusteeship Council. After the departure of the preceding Visiting Mission[h] there was a great upheaval, in which brother was turned against brother. All these details have been communicated to you. This upheaval plunged the country of the Cameroons into mourning, particularly our region, Sanaga-Maritime, 65 per cent of whose population are still suffering from the damages caused. There was much looting, bridges were destroyed and important people were killed, particularly those who were men of great merit. All this was caused by the UPC, a movement whose leaders have been derided by the masses of the Cameroonians. They have always been defeated in regular elections. That is why they have set up gangs of bandits to do all the evil described above.

Now that these evils have been committed, some of the leaders of the party in question have taken refuge in the Cameroons under British administration and in Cairo. The disturbances were originally caused by a political movement called Groupe d'Action nationale camerounaise (GANC). This movement was established after the UPC was dissolved by the decree of 13 July 1955. It was at that time, in June and July 1956, that Soppo Priso Paul, a Deputy, initiated a campaign of sabotage and demagogy in the Cameroons. Mr. Soppo Priso arrived in this embattled region exhorting people everywhere to oppose the elections to be held pursuant to the *loi-cadre*; hence the slogan of his followers was "Down with the *loi-cadre*". He mentioned that the elections of 2 January 1956 to the French National Assembly had taken place without the slightest incident. Despite the abstention of the UPC in the elections of 23 December 1956 it proved possible to hold them in an atmosphere of calm in Sanaga-Maritime.

Today Mr. Soppo Priso, who urged everyone to stay away from the polls, is a Deputy in the Legislative Assembly of the Cameroons at Yaoundé, having been a candidate at Douala. The loss of Dr. Delangué Charles and Mpouma Samuel has plunged the Bassa Region into mourning.

Day after day these same criminals are giving themselves up and they are left at liberty when they ask for pardon. We denounce the amnesty law.

Now that our young State has been established we can no longer oppose the programme advocated by the Government for the smooth progress which will lead to the future to which the Cameroons aspires. This independence must not bring us to ruin and misfortune. We request that prior to independence a referendum should be held, particularly with regard to the question of the reunification of the two Cameroons. This is a question on which there must be complete agreement between the two Governments of the two Cameroons. The peasant masses must therefore be consulted.

We humbly request technical and economic assistance during the period of transition to Cameroonian independence. We also request that new elections should be held in Sanaga-Maritime.

We ask this because the two deputies who at present represent the Sanaga-Maritime Region in the Legislative Assembly were not elected by us.

We also ask you to help us in obtaining compensation for Cameroonian property from those exploiting it. As far as general policy is concerned, this is all.

. . .

Let me summarize as follows:

[f] Some members of the Parti des Démocrates camerounais stated that they would like independence to be proclaimed on 1 January 1959.

[g] In another memorandum, the Wouri Federation of ESOCAM also requested "the immediate dissolution of the present Government and the Legislative Assembly, to be followed by a general election, under United Nations supervision, for a constituent assembly whose duty it will be to draw up a Cameroonian constitution which will be submitted to the popular will by means of a referendum".

[h] United Nations Visiting Mission to the Trust Territories of the Cameroons under British administration and the Cameroons under French administration, 1955.

1. The Eséka Branch of the BDC blames the UPC and the United Nations for the bloody events which have plunged the Cameroons into mourning;

2. It rejects the measures of clemency advocated by the Cameroonian Government, except in the case of non-criminals;

3. It presses for a popular consultation in the two Cameroons with a view to their reunification;

4. It requests United Nations technical and economic assistance for the Cameroons during the period of transition from full self-government to independence;

5. It expresses the hope that the termination of trusteeship will be concomitant with independence;

6. It requests that compensation for land exploited by foreign or French enterprises should be distributed equitably among the various sectors of the population concerned;

7. Finally, it pays a distribute to France for its work of emancipation and hopes that these complaints will be favourably received by the United Nations.

. . .

H. Extract from the resolution submitted to the Regroupement des forces nationalistes[1]

Douala, 9 November 1958

. . .

The Cameroonians here present, conscious of the gravity of the hour and of the immediate objectives to be obtained, have resolved to establish a people's committee with the following aims:

1. To campaign for a total and unconditional amnesty as a prerequisite for reunification and independence;

2. To request the immediate withdrawal of military forces from the disturbed areas;

3. Vigorously to denounce the deportation of political prisoners, which is still going on;

4. To campaign for the dissolution of the present Assembly, followed by general elections organized under United Nations supervision at least three months after the amnesty;

5. To work for national resurgence by combating corruption in all forms, the squandering of public funds and encroachments on freedom of the press, of expression and of assembly;

6. To request the immediate reduction of the allowances and salaries paid to deputies and ministers, as in Togoland;

7. To oppose the termination of the trusteeship before accession to independence;

8. To denounce any action contrary to the higher interests of the country.

. . .

I. Extract from the memorandum submitted by the Confédération générale kamerunaise du Travail (CGKT)

Douala, 26 November 1958

. . .

General and unconditional amnesty

. . .

It must be emphasized that responsibility for those events now rests fairly and squarely on the Administering Authority, which had refused to adjust its position to the facts. The Administering Authority's dilatoriness in granting the political reforms so ardently desired by our people and, above all, its brutal policies prior to the 1955 events all contributed to open the door wide to disturbances of all sorts. And, to prove the truth of this assertion, the result of the Administering Authority's rigid policy was the fresh wave of political incidents in December 1956.

After this succession of bloody incidents in the country, everything possible should have been done to find a solution and restore calm. To that end, timely action should have been taken to grant an amnesty, so as to begin by wiping out the memories of 1955. Unfortunately, however, the policy adopted in this connexion ran counter to the people's wishes. Immediately following the 1956-1957 incidents, the Administering Authority attempted to solve the situation by military repression, which compelled a number of citizens to take to the bush and later gave rise to the birth of a *maquis* in the country. Since then Kamerun has been passing through a time of great tribulation, the consequences of which are reflected in the present political situation. In the three principal regions, Nyong-et-Kellé, Sanaga-Maritime and Bamiléké, human and material losses are considerable. The burning of houses and whole villages, looting, frequent murders, arrests, imprisonment and abuses of all sorts are everyday events. Social and economic life is paralysed throughout the country. The living and working conditions of the country peoples have become intolerable and the habitual relations between families and tribes impossible. The policy of divide and rule has split families and tribes. Hatred sustains the climate of terrorism in the country. Outworn and retrograde tribalism is actively encouraged and flourishes everywhere. It has recently assumed vast proportions in an attempt to sabotage by fair means or foul Kamerun's attainment of national independence. But another and secret purpose is to lead international public opinion to believe that the Kamerunians are still too immature to deal with the urgent problem of national independence.

Faced with these circumstances, the Administering Authority has persevered in its policy of rigidity by introducing reforms which the Kamerunian people considered to have been overtaken by events. That is a truly negative position and one which obviously stands in the way of our country's advancement. While it must be admitted that these reforms are a step towards our country's emancipation, it is none the less true that the institutions which have emerged from these reforms are unpopular and are not therefore representative in the eyes of our people. That is why the question of the amnesty is so acute in Kamerun.

We shall undoubtedly be told that an amnesty law was voted as early as 1957 and that it can be applied by the Kamerunian Government; this point was, in fact, made by Mr. Ahidjo, the Prime Minister, only recently in the Fourth Committee in New York. So far as the CGKT is concerned, we feel it necessary to emphasize that the amnesty law is incomplete. It is subject to a fairly large number of restrictions and came too late to fill the political vacuum of the country. Our organization, the CGKT, cannot but regret the fact that only a very limited class of offences come within the terms of this law. Lastly, the CGKT considers that time and events have overtaken this law. It has quite naturally failed to achieve its true purpose, namely, to restore calm in the country. The amnesty should take place in accordance with the wishes of our people, so as to prepare the way harmoniously for Kamerun's attainment of its national independence. Our people believe that independence achieved in the present circumstances would be a brittle independence, in the true sense of the word, for without peace, progress is illusory.

As we have just shown, it is the Administering Authority's policy which has led the country into the present impasse. In order to bring out the point of view of the working masses and the peoples, the CGKT would request the United Nations Visiting Mission to do everything in its power to enable the Kamerunian Government to grant a general and unconditional amnesty for political acts committed between 1955 and 1958. After the amnesty, the present Legislative Assembly should be dissolved. The troops should be withdrawn from the regions mentioned below.

. . .

The immediate dissolution of the Cameroonian Legislative Assembly

. . .

In view of the conditions under which these deputies were elected,

In view of the atmosphere of terror and insecurity created in the country by the reinforcement of the military forces, which are daily murdering peaceful Kamerunians,

Considering that a war of extermination is continuing throughout the country,

Considering that our people is unarmed and that its sons are being tortured in concentration camps, with the manifest connivance of the Franco-Cameroonian Government and of the Cameroonian Legislative Assembly,

Considering that these deputies are not valid representatives of the country,

We request the present United Nations General Assembly to adopt a categorical resolution providing for the immediate dissolution of the present Cameroonian Legislative Assembly, which represents only its members and not the Kamerunian people.

We urge the present United Nations General Assembly to appoint a control commission to organize free general elections, preceded by an unconditional general amnesty law in respect of all political acts since May 1955.

We request the immediate dissolution of the Cameroonian Legislative Assembly for the following main reasons:

"It was instituted purely as a Cameroonian Territorial Assembly and was to have dispersed after voting the statute of the Trust State of the Cameroons. It has, however, been retained and unobtrusively transformed into the Cameroonian Legislative Assembly for reasons of expediency.

"At a time when Kamerun is due shortly to have its own constituent assembly, it is absolutely essential that the present Cameroonian Legislative Assembly be dissolved immediately."

Immediate reunification and independence

...

All Kamerunian men and women in the two zones are united behind the people's claim for immediate reunification and independence, for the periods of initiation and transition have already been completed and left behind.

Referendum. The holding of a referendum is no longer a valid means of ascertaining whether the Kamerunians want national independence, for the people have all already declared themselves in favour of that point. A referendum would be required only if there were disagreement between the people of the two parts of Kamerun on immediate reunification. The object of the referendum would then be to ask the people if they were "for or against" immediate reunification.

In the course of the past few years more than 50,000 petitions have been sent to the United Nations by Kamerunians demanding the immediate reunification and independence of their country. Political parties, trade-union organizations, cultural bodies, traditional associations and, more recently, the Kamerunian Government and Assembly have now spoken out in favour of independence and reunification. The two claims must be granted at the same time in order to prevent any recurrence of the situation in Korea, Viet-Nam and Germany. All those countries were divided up as a result of the war and are now having great difficulty in securing their reunification. There is no doubt that if the two parts of Kamerun first gained their independence, reunification would encounter the same difficulties here as elsewhere. A simultaneous referendum in the two zones, under United Nations supervision, preceded by the measures demanded by the people to relieve the existing tension, would decide the choice of the Kamerunians as to their future.

It is the duty of the United Nations, which upholds the principles of democracy and justice, to make good, without more ado, the injustice done to our country when it was partitioned by the League of Nations without consulting the Kamerunian people. In view of that fact, the United Nations, the successor to the League of Nations, ought to adopt a resolution announcing the reunification of Kamerun without holding a referendum, since no referendum was held before our country was divided.

The termination of trusteeship. The resolution of 24 October 1958 adopted by the Legislative Assembly and defended by the French representative before the United Nations, asked for the termination of trusteeship simultaneously with the proclamation of independence which, it has been decided, is to take place on 1 January 1960.

The CGKT considers it prudent and necessary that trusteeship should not be terminated until after the proclamation of independence, on a date to be agreed on between the reunified Kamerun, France, the United Kingdom and the United Nations. To meet the wishes of the people, trusteeship should be ended immediately after the independence of the two zones.

Our position regarding the Legislative Assembly resolution of 24 October 1958

The Legislative Assembly set 1 January 1960 as the date for independence. It has declared that it hopes to establish friendly relations with the French Republic after independence.

We support the people's demand for immediate independence with, as preliminary steps, a general and unconditional amnesty, the dissolution of the Legislative Assembly, and general elections for a constituent assembly under the supervision of the United Nations.

Independence in 1960 is the choice of the Legislative Assembly and the Cameroonian Government in agreement with France. We are all aware of the circumstances in which these institutions were imposed upon the Kamerunian people, and the views of the Government and the Assembly do not reflect the unanimous desire of the masses of the people. Independence granted in any conditions other than those outlined above and without the participation of a number of sons of the people would be a sham and would have no sound an practical foundations.

As regards the future relations between Kamerun and France and the United Kingdom, it is only logical to agree that that is a matter solely within the competence of an independent and sovereign Kamerun.

In conclusion, we declare ourselves in favour of immediate reunification and independence after the adoption of the following measures:

A general and unconditional amnesty;

The abrogation of the decree of 13 July 1955;

The dissolution of the Legislative Assembly and the election of a constituent assembly under United Nations supervision;

No referendum on independence;[1]

The termination of trusteeship after independence.

. . .

[1] This resolution, adopted at Douala on 9 November 1958, sets forth the objectives of the Regroupement des forces nationalistes. It was submitted to the Mission for its information on 26 November.

[1] In another memorandum submitted to the Mission at Yaoundé, the CGKT asked for the "proclamation of the total and real national independence of Kamerun on the historic date of 13 December 1959, the anniversary of the signature of the Trusteeship Agreement on 13 December 1946".

J. Extract from the memorandum presented by the Union des Associations traditionnelles du Cameroun (UNATRACAM)

Yaoundé, 17 November 1958

. . .

Independence

Of all these problems, one alone stands out, the perennial problem of independence. The basic principle is set forth in Article 76 b of the Charter. The Union des populations du Cameroun (UPC), which was dissolved by a decree of the Administering Authority of 13 July 1955, based its entire policy on this problem of the independence and reunification of the Cameroons. The watchword of independence for the Cameroons first heard at San Francisco when the Charter was being drafted has spread throughout the Cameroons like oil on water. Today its advocates and its opponents alike speak of it with the same vigour, and it cannot be ignored.

Delegation after delegation has appeared at the United Nations to defend its stand either for or against the independence of the Cameroons.

The Legislative Assembly of the Cameroons has twice, on 12 June and 24 October 1958, decided in favour of the independence of the Territory. The head of the Cameroonian Government said on his return from Paris, where he had been sent on official mission by the Legislative Assembly of the Cameroons, that by agreement with the Administering Authorities the date on which the Cameroons would attain independence had been fixed at 1 January 1960.

UNATRACAM, at a congress held at Odza (Yaoundé) on 8 and 9 November 1958, unhesitatingly declared itself in favour of the independence of the Cameroons. It studied the main facts of the problem and defined its policy on the subject.

Since 1914 the whole of the Cameroons has been legally and diplomatically an independent territory. Only the unhappy circumstances of its history have prevented it from enjoying that independence, the date of the effective enjoyment of which has just been set at 1 January 1960.

After the foregoing observations, it is regrettable to note that the representative of France at the United Nations has again stated before that august body that a referendum will take place in the Cameroons in which the Cameroonian peoples will once more be called upon to make known their decision on this important question, although such a development would appear *a priori* to be out of the question. Since the date has already been set, any further talk of a referendum seems logically pointless.

UNATRACAM has asked the established authorities for the immediate dissolution of the present Legislative Assembly. New elections should be held for a constituent assembly which will be given the task of drafting the constitution of the Cameroons. It is that constitution, establishing the definitive political system of the Cameroons, which should be submitted to the people by a referendum under United Nations supervision.

We have learned with satisfaction that trusteeship will be ended in Togoland as soon as that country attains its independence. We insist that the same should apply to the Cameroons under French administration.

Amnesty

Since the country is to become independent, it is desirable that all those who have been outlawed should be brought back to normal life. By a decree of 13 July 1955 the Administering Authority dissolved all progressive national movements. Many prison sentences were imposed following the events of May 1955, and others were imposed later. That led to the occupation of the Nyong-et-Kellé (Eséka), Sanaga-Maritime (Edéa) and Bamiléké (Dschang) Regions, especially the Bafoussam Subdivision.

Since calm has again been virtually restored throughout the country, all these incidents should now be forgotten. Yet every day there are numerous round-ups both of *maquisards* and of persons who fled to the bush through fear of reprisals by the forces of law and order. We have seen in the local press a *communiqué* by the Chief of the Nyong-et-Kellé Region, removing all the restrictions on road traffic and passengers and goods transport throughout this region. An amnesty law is essential.

Withdrawal of troops

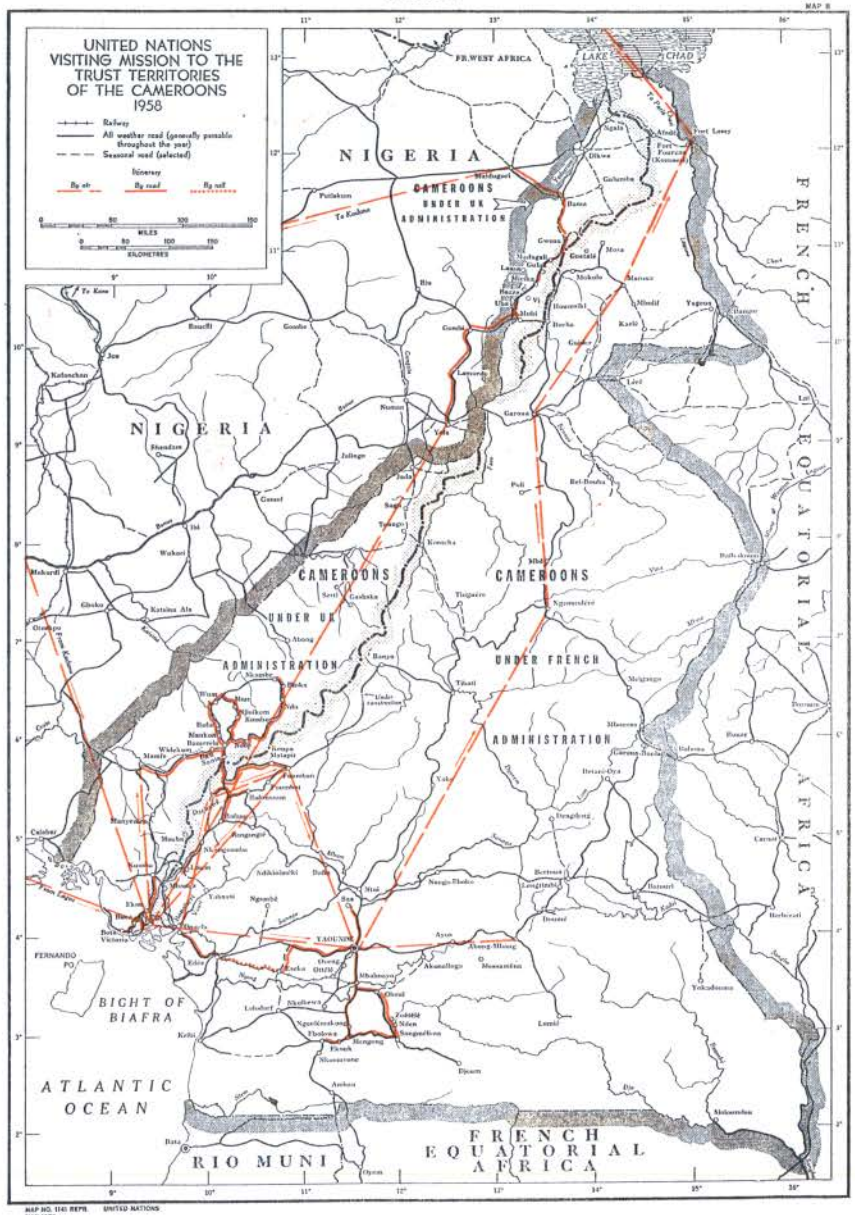
The occupation of these regions by the forces of law and order constitutes a heavy burden for the Territory. They should be withdrawn and, if possible, replaced by United Nations international forces.

Reunification

The independence of the Cameroons has no meaning except in conjunction with the restoration of territorial integrity within the 1884 frontiers.

We are aware that the two zones of the Cameroons, under French and British administration, will attain their independence in 1960, the first on 1 January and the second on 1 October. Since there is a danger that the British Cameroons may unite with Nigeria, this important question should be settled before the end of that period. The Visiting Mission probably has pertinent information on this subject from our brothers from beyond the Mungo; but we are anxious to inform the Mission here and now that our most ardent desire is the reunification of the two Cameroons. Since the Cameroons was arbitrarily divided by the League of Nations without reference to the wishes of its peoples, it is most fitting that the United Nations, successor to the League of Nations, should carry out the reunification of the Cameroons without a referendum.

. . .



OBSERVATIONS OF THE ADMINISTERING AUTHORITY ON THE REPORT OF THE VISITING MISSION

Statement made by the representative of France at the 953rd meeting of the Trusteeship Council

Two items on the agenda of the Trusteeship Council's present session deal essentially with the Cameroons under French administration: item 4 concerning the examination of the Administering Authority's report for 1957, and item 17 concerning the future of the Trust State.

On all points raised in the course of the discussion on these two items, about which members of the Council may wish to have further information, I shall have the assistance of two special representatives whom I should now like to introduce to the Council: Mr. Pinon and Mr. Betayenné. I believe this is not really an introduction, as Mr. Gerig has already performed that duty.

Mr. Pinon is a *licencié en droit* of the Ecole nationale de la France d'outre-mer; he has had more than twelve years of administrative experience in Africa, and for the past year and a half has been a member of the Cabinet of the French High Commissioner for the Cameroons as Director of Foreign Relations.

Mr. Jean Betayenné was born in the Cameroons. He was one of our most brilliant university students. He too has a law degree and gratuated from the Ecole de la France d'outre-mer. He has dealt with Cameroonian affairs since 1954, and belongs to the Cameroonian *élite* which will now administer the new Cameroonian nation and hold the country's future in their hands. He is a member of Mr. Ahidjo's Cabinet in the capacity of technical adviser on foreign relations.

Both these gentlemen will do their utmost to give the Council valuable assistance in its work.

There is no need for me to stress that one of these two items on the agenda is much more important than the other. The French delegation will, of course, gladly participate in the discussion of the report on the administration of the Cameroons for 1957,[1] in accordance with the normal procedure and practice, if the Council considers it necessary, but everyone must be aware that events have moved swiftly since 1957, and it is the future of the Trust State which will invest this regular session of the Council with exceptional significance and command the close attention of all delegations. Moreover, the General Assembly has given us specific terms of reference, in resolution 1282 (XIII), to examine and appraise as soon as possible the report submitted to us by the United Nations Visiting Mission to Trust Territories in West Africa, 1958, in order to enable the General Assembly to reach a decision on the termination of the trusteeship at its forthcoming session. We therefore have to prepare the ground for the General Assembly's work and decisions, which we can now do in full knowledge of the facts, both in the light of the many important events which took place in the development of the Cameroons during 1958, and also of the conclusions of the Visiting Mission.

The Visiting Mission's report[2] gives a full and detailed account of the Territory's evolution since 1956 in the political, economic and social fields, which has enabled the Cameroonians to govern themselves. There is no need to review this history for the benefit of the members of the Council, who have for years been in constant touch with these problems.

I need only draw attention to the principal events of the decisive year 1958—a year when the Cameroons blossomed and when the imminence of its independence was irrevocably confirmed. You will recall that during the first two months of that year, the Cameroons experienced the first ministerial crisis in its short parliamentary history. The Cameroonian Government led by Mr. André-Marie Mbida was defeated in the Legislative Assembly. As the outcome of that crisis, the course of which revealed both the vitality of the new institutions and the political maturity of the Cameroonian leaders, Mr. Ahmadou Ahidjo was asked to form a new Government, and on 8 February he presented a programme bearing chiefly on the following points: full domestic autonomy; a schedule for Cameroonian independence; reunification of the two Cameroons; national conciliation; co-operation with France on the basis of freedom and mutual trust; more rapid preparation of the Cameroons for independence in the political, financial, economic and social fields.

It was on this programme that Mr. Ahidjo won a motion of confidence by 49 votes, with 15 abstentions. Himself a Northerner, but aware of the need for national unity, he has grouped around him representatives of

[1] *Rapport annuel du Gouvernement français à l'Assemblée générale des Nations Unies sur l'administration du Cameroun placé sous la tutelle de la France, année 1957* (Saint-Ouen (Seine), Imprimerie Chaix, 1958). Transmitted to members of the Trusteeship Council by a note of the Secretary-General (T/1436).

[2] See document T/1427 above.

the people of both north and south and formed a broadly-based coalition Government.

The former Opposition, consisting mainly of the Action nationale parliamentary group, known as the Group of Eight, whose President, Mr. Charles Assalé, together with Mr. Soppo Priso, was known to the United Nations as the author of petitions, has now become the majority party and several of its members have accepted ministerial posts. On the other hand, Mr. Mbida and his Démocrates camerounais, with their President, Mr. Claude Akono, and prominent members like Mr. Tsal la Mekongo and Mr. Djoumessi, are now the Opposition.

In accordance with its announced programme and the provisions of the Statute of 16 April 1957 [T/1314], which permits the Legislative Assembly to request a change in institutions by resolution, the Government introduced a draft resolution in the Assembly according to which the Legislative Assembly would instruct the Government to enter into negotiations with the French Government for the recognition of the option of the Cameroons to become independent on the termination of the trusteeship, and for the earliest possible transfer to the State of the Cameroons of all powers relating to the management of internal affairs.

The text of this resolution was adopted on 12 June 1958 by all deputies of the Cameroonian Assembly with the exception of the Démocrates camerounais, who refused to vote.

Negotiations were conducted between the French and Cameroonian Governments during the summer. They took place in an atmosphere of mutual understanding and trust, and culminated in complete agreement, both on the transfer of all internal powers to the State of the Cameroons from 1 January 1959, and on the adoption of the time-table for Cameroonian independence—full independence, for those who like adjectives—to become effective on 1 January 1960.

Thus agreement was reached on a statute of self-government.

The transfer of all internal powers was given effect by the adoption of the new Statute, which, in the words of the Cameroonian Prime Minister, Mr. Ahidjo, " marks the accession of the Cameroons to complete internal self-government, which carries with it full legislative and regulatory powers ".

The new Statute was submitted to the Cameroonian Legislative Assembly at the opening of its session on 14 October 1958, approved on 20 November 1958, promulgated on 30 December by an ordinance of the Government of General de Gaulle and came into effect on 1 January 1959.

Henceforth all legislative, administrative and juridical powers are vested in the Cameroonian authorities. In addition to its powers under the previous Statute, the Cameroonian Government assumes full responsibility for public order and the proper dispensation of justice. It therefore exercises full authority over public services as a whole, particularly the heads of administrative *circonscriptions* and police, security and *gendarmerie* forces. Justice is dispensed in the name of the Cameroonian people and the judiciary is independent of the administrative and legislative authorities. In the matter of external affairs, Cameroonian citizenship has been recognized and France shares with the Cameroonian authorities the responsibilities incumbent on it by virtue of the Trusteeship Agreement.

Those are the broad outlines of the Statute which is given in full in annex II of the Visiting Mission's report, to which the Franco-Cameroonian Conventions are also annexed.

I feel I need not go into greater detail, but since we are dealing with provisional texts, we are quite prepared to give any explanations which may be desired. The Statute will govern the Cameroons during 1959. It is the last stage in the evolution of Cameroonian institutions before independence and the termination of the trusteeship, as stated in its preamble. For, on 1 January 1960, autonomy will be replaced by independence, and the remaining powers, relating to external affairs, will pass into the hands of the Cameroonian authorities. The Statute itself is therefore only a means of preparing the most favourable conditions for independence, whose time-table was worked out in complete agreement by the French and Cameroonian Governments. It is a pre-independence Statute.

During the negotiations, France agreed to recognize the option of the Cameroons for independence on the termination of the trusteeship. The Cameroonian Government and all the people wanted a date to be fixed forthwith in accordance with the wishes they had expressed. Moreover, the Administering Authority, having acknowledged the need to transfer all internal powers to the Cameroonian authorities, could no longer assume the responsibilities of the trusteeship for an indefinite period. It was in those circumstances that the Legislative Assembly was consulted on the subject of a time-table for the attainment of the objectives of the Trusteeship System in the Cameroons.

In its resolution of 24 October, the Assembly proclaimed the wish of the people that the State of the Cameroons should attain full national independence on 1 January 1960, and requested the Cameroonian Government to ask France to propose, in the General Assembly of the United Nations, the termination of the Trusteeship Agreement on the attainment of independence.

On 28 October I had the honour, on behalf of the French Government, formally to submit the agreements concluded to the Fourth Committee of the General Assembly [774th meeting]. The ninth special session of the Trusteeship Council, as you will recall, enabled the Council to supplement the terms of reference of the Visiting Mission. Lastly, a memorandum submitted to the General Assembly on 12 November [A/C.4/388] stated that the time had come to invite the people of the Cameroons to complete the final phase of the trusteeship, and that immediate provision must be made for the termination of the Trusteeship Agreement on the attainment of independence, on 1 January 1960. This standpoint was reaffirmed in the course of the General Assembly's debates, both by the representative of France and by the Cameroonian Prime Minister, Mr. Ahidjo.

Those debates are too recent to warrant extensive reference to them at this time. The passage of time will enable us to view them in their true perspective, without, however, indulging in subtle interpretations of the text or psychoanalysing the Fourth Committee's collective soul.

The first point I should like to make is that the Assembly received with satisfaction the announcement of independence for the Cameroons under French administration on 1 January 1960. There was unanimity on that score. No one has questioned our time-table. We emphasized this in our statement to the Fourth Committee on 25 November 1958 [816th meeting], in which we indicated that, whatever procedure was adopted, the Cameroons would be independent on 1 January 1960, and that, in accordance with the wishes of the Cameroonian Assembly, we would oppose any efforts, regardless of their nature, which might be made to delay the accession of the Cameroonian people to their full sovereignty. In its unanimously adopted resolution 1282 (XIII), the General Assembly notes " the declarations of the Government of France that the Cameroons under French administration is to achieve independence on 1 January 1960, thus fulfilling the objectives of the Trusteeship System".

My second point is that the Assembly, although fully aware of the urgent need for a decision, in view of the proximity of the date of 1 January 1960, hesitated to take it immediately. The reason for its hesitation was that some delegations still had doubts regarding the situation in the Cameroons, the most appropriate procedure for terminating the trusteeship, the genuineness of the Cameroonian Government's powers, the problem of reunification, and so on.

For our part, although things were perfectly clear to us and our position had been defined with a frankness which even our adversaries recognized, we had absolutely no desire, seeing that our time-table had not been questioned, to force a decision on the General Assembly, to exert pressure on the United Nations. Quite the contrary. Since we had nothing to hide and our case was crystal-clear, we hoped to obtain the broadest possible approval from the United Nations. Some persons were still doubtful or hesitant. Never mind. There was a United Nations Mission in the Cameroons—why not await its report? But since a decision could not be postponed until the fourteenth session of the General Assembly, the obvious solution was for the Assembly to meet again as soon as the Trusteeship Council was in a position to forward to it the Visiting Mission's report, together with its own observations.

Mr. President, it is you, who, as the representative of Haiti, deserve the credit for having first presented this solution,[3] which we supported and which was unanimously adopted. The Council knows well the experience which you have had, both in the United Nations and with trusteeship problems, and which has once more been extremely useful to us. As a result of your initiative, the General Assembly expressed its confidence that the Visiting Mission and the Trusteeship Council could propose to it a clear solution to the Cameroons problem by 20 February.

Let us consider, then, the conclusions of the Visiting Mission.

First of all, on behalf of the Administering Authority and the Cameroonian Government, let me pay a tribute to Mr. Gerig, Mr. Jaipal, Mr. Salomon and Mr. Thorp, and also to the secretariat team which helped them, for the conscientious and competent way in which they carried out their delicate task. For the reasons given above, and in order that there should be no doubts on the matter and that the truth should be plain to all, we hoped that they would be able to gather all the information possible from the most reliable sources and with the greatest guarantees of objectivity. The High Commissioner's Office and the Cameroonian Government wanted the Mission to be perfectly free to meet everybody who wished to meet it, to receive all petitions which might be addressed to it, and to establish contact with all representatives of Cameroonian opinion, including the Opposition. It was absolutely necessary that the representatives of the United States, Haiti, India and New Zealand should be able to make an exhaustive inquiry into all the problems with which the General Assembly was concerned. In order to see and hear a great deal, they were not sparing of their time. We thank them for their strenuous work. We are gratified to note that the conclusions in their report were adopted by unanimous agreement.

What questions were left in abeyance, or more exactly, what were the questions concerning which some delegations awaited—and still await—clarification from the Visiting Mission before taking a final decision on the termination of the trusteeship?

First question, *ab Jove principium*: What about independence? What is the wish of the people of the Cameroons?

The reply is to be found in paragraphs 135 and 136 of the Visiting Mission's report: " . . . the overwhelming majority of the population desires independence ", and the date of " . . . 1 January 1960, which was approved in the Legislative Assembly of the Cameroons by a large majority, is also supported by the great majority of the population ".

Second question: Is a referendum necessary?

The reply is to be found in paragraph 136 of the report: " . . . it is not necessary to consult the population on this subject before the termination of the trusteeship ".

Third question: Are new general elections necessary before the attainment of independence?

The reply is to be found in paragraph 141: " There are certainly insufficient grounds . . . for the holding of new general elections under United Nations supervision before the termination of the trusteeship. Furthermore, it [the Mission] sees no reason why fresh elections to the Legislative Assembly should be a pre-condition of the attainment of independence. It must be remembered that it was the present Legislative Assembly and Govern-

[3] See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirteenth Session, Fourth Committee*, 809th meeting.

ment which demanded and obtained from France the commitment to grant independence on 1 January 1960. It would be ironic if their representative character were to be called in question."

Fourth question: Precisely to what extent is the present Assembly representative?

The reply is to be found in paragraphs 138 to 141: "An examination of the conditions in which the elections of 23 December 1956 took place and of their results does not . . . give justification for any claim that the composition of the Legislative Assembly does not reflect popular opinion, except possibly in the Sanaga-Maritime. . . . The Mission is of the opinion that on the whole the present Legislative Assembly is representative in character."

Fifth question: Has the final objective of the International Trusteeship System been reached?

The reply is to be found in paragraph 134: "The terms of the new Statute and the clarifying provisions in its preamble afford no grounds for doubt that the independence which the Cameroons will enjoy on the termination of the trusteeship will be full and complete. Moreover, the manner in which the Legislative Assembly and the Government have exercised the powers transferred to them, and the economic and social development of the Territory, encourage the Mission to believe, with the Administering Authority, that the Cameroonians have the capacity to assume the responsibilities of independence."

Sixth question: What about the disturbances in the Sanaga-Maritime?

The reply is to be found in paragraphs 98, 102, 157 and others: The rebellion has virtually ended. The number of rebels who have surrendered clearly shows the rapid decline of the movement in the Sanaga-Maritime.

Seventh question: What do the Cameroonians under French administration think of reunification?

The reply is to be found in paragraphs 165 and 166: It is not necessary to consult the people on the matter. The general position was that they were waiting for the Cameroons under British administration to indicate in some formal manner, and preferably before 1 January 1960, its desire for unification, but this unification should not in any circumstances lead to a delay in the Territory's becoming independent.

These are the Visiting Mission's conclusions on the most important points. They are clear-cut, logical, supported by facts and should convince even those who are most hesitant to accept the evidence.

I would be guilty of omission, however, if I failed to mention two important suggestions made by the Visiting Mission, one concerning by-elections and the other national reconciliation.

The Mission feels, according to paragraph 142 of its report, that it would be desirable to rectify the situation in the Sanaga-Maritime as soon as possible by holding by-elections.

I am pleased to inform the Council that the Government of Mr. Ahidjo intends to hold by-elections very soon to fill vacancies caused by the assassination of two candidates in December 1956 and the disqualification of the two surviving candidates who were elected. These elections are to be held within the next few months.

The Mission, moreover, expressed, in paragraph 158 of its report, its conviction, that "a new amnesty measure, as broad as possible . . . would be an act of great wisdom".

As the Prime Minister had assured the Mission, an amnesty bill has been submitted to the Legislative Assembly of the Cameroons and is now under discussion. It will be voted upon and put into effect before the by-elections.

For our part, we cannot fail to be pleased at seeing the final reconciliation of the Cameroonians being achieved by the Cameroonians themselves, since, as of 1 January, the power of declaring amnesties has been transferred to the Cameroonians by the Statute.

What conclusion shall we draw from these conclusions? In the main, that the conditions for reaching a decision with respect to the Cameroons under French administration have now been met.

Of course, there is still one more question to settle, that of reunification. If care and understanding are brought to bear on this problem by the Cameroonian Government and popular opinion, it is, as a matter of fact, already solved for them. The Cameroonians under French administration are ready to welcome their brothers under British administration, if the latter so desire. It is now for the people of the Cameroons under British administration to have their say. We shall have to study the question of the date and substance of a possible consultation when we come to consider the future of this Territory and my delegation reserves the right to present its views at that time. Besides, the solution of this problem is not a prerequisite to independence and to the termination of the Trusteeship Agreement. The Visiting Mission noted that that was the feeling of Cameroonian public opinion, which would not tolerate any such pretexts for further delays.

France is proud—and I am sure that the Trusteeship Council will share this pride—that it is able to state, with the Visiting Mission, that the purposes of the Trusteeship System have been achieved in the Territory which it has been administering on behalf of the international community for forty years.

The State of Cameroons, a free and democratic State whose institutions are based on the principles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and on respect for the United Nations Charter, is now ready to take its place in the great family of nations.

The birth of a new nation is a moving, portentous and solemn event, which should reduce to silence all controversy and partisan arguments. We trust that the United Nations, which for many years has followed and encouraged the progress of the Cameroonian people, will be unanimous in confirming their accession to international life.

We therefore urge the Council to adopt unanimously the last conclusion in the Visiting Mission's report, which was itself unanimously agreed upon, and to recommend that the General Assembly, at its resumed session, should adopt a resolution providing for the termination of the Trusteeship Agreement relating to the Cameroons under French administration on the day of its independence, 1 January 1960.

RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE TRUSTEESHIP COUNCIL

1925 (XXIII). The future of the Trust Territory of the Cameroons under French administration

The Trusteeship Council,

Recalling its resolutions 1907 (XXII) of 28 July 1958 and 1924 (S-IX) of 7 November 1958 by which the United Nations Visiting Mission to Trust Territories in West Africa, 1958, was requested, *inter alia*, to set forth its views on the procedure for organizing the consultation which would enable the people of the Cameroons under French administration to express, at the appropriate time, their wishes concerning their future and concerning the termination of trusteeship upon the attainment of full national independence in 1960,

Having been requested by the General Assembly in its resolution 1282 (XIII) of 5 December 1958 to examine, as early as possible during the twenty-third session, the reports of the Visiting Mission on the Cameroons under French administration and the Cameroons under United Kingdom administration, and to transmit the same, with its observations and recommendations, to the General Assembly not later than 20 February 1959 to enable the Assembly, in consultation with the Administering Authorities to take the necessary measures in connexion with the full attainment of the objectives of the Trusteeship System,

Having examined the report of the Visiting Mission on the Cameroons under French administration [4] and considered the observations of the Administering Authority on it,

1. *Expresses its appreciation* to the Visiting Mission for its report;

2. *Notes* the conclusions and recommendations of the Visiting Mission;

3. *Considers* that the Territory of the Cameroons under French administration is ready for independence, in accordance with the declarations of the Administering Authority and the Legislative Assembly of the Cameroons under French administration, without the need for any further consultation with the people of the Territory;

4. *Welcomes with satisfaction* the assurances given by the Prime Minister of the Cameroons under French administration to the Visiting Mission, and which have been reiterated on behalf of the Administering Authority before the Council, that the necessary measures are being discussed in the Legislative Assembly for the granting of broader measures of political amnesty, and strongly urges that such amnesty should be granted on the widest possible basis and with the least possible delay;

5. *Welcomes further* assurances given in the Council by the representative of the Administering Authority and by the special representative that there exist in the Territory freedom of the press, of assembly and of political association, and other fundamental freedoms;

6. *Notes* that the Cameroons Government has stated that it welcomes the return of all Cameroonians who in recent years have left the country and invites them to re-enter normal life without fear of reprisal;

7. *Notes further* that it is the intention of the Cameroons Government to hold elections to fill the four seats in the Legislative Assembly allocated to the Sanaga-Maritime area as early as possible;

8. *Transmits* to the General Assembly the report of the Visiting Mission, the observations of the Administering Authority and the records of the Council's discussions;

9. *Recommends* that the General Assembly at its resumed session, after considering the report of the Council and any further views that may be expressed before it, take a decision to terminate the Trusteeship Agreement upon the attainment of full national independence with effect from 1 January 1960 in accordance with Article 76 b of the Charter of the United Nations.

960th *meeting,*
17 February 1959.

[4] See document T/1427 above.

SALES AGENTS FOR UNITED NATIONS PUBLICATIONS

ARGENTINA
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NEW YORK

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FILE NO.:

23 January 1959

RECORDS CONTROL

27 JAN

TR 140 WAF-1958

Sir,

We have the honour, in accordance with Trusteeship Council resolution 1907 (XXII) of 29 July 1958, to transmit herewith the report of the United Nations Visiting Mission to Trust Territories in West Africa, 1958, on the Cameroons under French administration.

In order to provide the Administering Authority with additional time to prepare its observations on the report, the Mission is making available to it informally to-day a number of copies of the final draft. It would be grateful if you would officially transmit the report in document form at the earliest possible date, in accordance with rule 99 of the Rules of Procedure of the Trusteeship Council, to the Administering Authority and each other member of the Council, and if you would release it for general distribution at a date to be determined by you in consultation with the Administering Authority.

We have pleasure in informing you that the report as at present submitted was unanimously adopted by the members of the Visiting Mission.

We would not wish to close this letter without expressing to you our appreciation for the splendid way in which the Principal Secretary, Mr. R. T. Miller, and the other members of the staff appointed by you, discharged their arduous duties. Their detailed knowledge of the problems of the territories was invaluable and was generously made available at all times. The Mission is greatly indebted to them for their unfailing help and assistance.

Please accept, Sir, the assurances of our highest consideration.

Benjamin Gerig

Benjamin Gerig (United States of America)
Chairman

Georges Salomon (Haiti)

R. Jaipal

Rikhi Jaipal (India)

Gray Thorp

Gray Thorp (New Zealand)

The Secretary-General
United Nations
New York

DRAFTER Liu

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9 JAN 1959

REGISTRY FILE COPY

FILE No. TR 140 WAF

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LTF PINON HAUSSAIRE

YAOUNDE (FRENCH CAMEROONS, WEST AFRICA)

CONCERNANT ARTICLE DEUX NOUVEAU STATUT MISSION SERAIT RECONNAISSANTE RECEVOIR SI POSSIBLE EXPLICATIONS COMMUNES GOUVERNEMENTS FRANCAIS ET CAMEROUNAIS CONCERNANT NONACCEPTATION MODIFICATIONS PROPOSEES PAR ALCAM

BENJAMIN GERIG MISSION VISITE UNATIONS

CFM NIL

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UNITED NATIONS NATIONS UNIES

NEW YORK

RECORDS CONTROL

CABLE ADDRESS · UNATIONS NEWYORK · ADRESSE TELEGRAPHIQUE

28 JAN 1959

FILE NO.:

19 January 1959

TR 140 WAF-1958

Sir,

We have the honour, in accordance with Trusteeship Council resolution 1907 (XXII) of 29 July 1958 and subject to the reservation set forth below, to transmit herewith the report of the United Nations Visiting Mission to Trust Territories in West Africa, 1958, on the Cameroons under British administration.

The Visiting Mission wishes to draw your attention to the fact that it has felt obliged to take into account the timetable established by the decision of the General Assembly, in its resolution 1281 (XIII), to resume its thirteenth session on 20 February 1959 in order to consider the question of the future of the Trust Territories of the Cameroons, and by the fact that the Mission's report will have to be considered by the Trusteeship Council before that date. The Mission has accordingly completed the report to the extent that it found practicable in the light of the situation existing in the Trust Territory before the general elections to be held in the Southern Cameroons on 24 January 1959. Under the circumstances, it wishes to reserve the right to review the final section of the report and to submit an addendum after that date if it considers this to be necessary to the full discharge of its responsibilities under the terms of reference.

In order to provide the Administering Authority with additional time to prepare its observations on the report, the Mission is making available to it informally today a number of copies of the final draft. It would be grateful if you would officially transmit the report in document form at the earliest possible date, in accordance with rule 99 of the Rules of Procedure of the Trusteeship Council, to the Administering Authority and each other member of the Council, and if you would release it for general distribution at a date to be determined by you in consultation with the Administering Authority.

The Secretary-General
United Nations
New York

The Mission intends to notify you as soon as possible after 24 January 1959 as to whether it proposes to submit an addendum to the report.

We have pleasure in informing you that the report as at present submitted was unanimously adopted by the members of the Visiting Mission.

We would not wish to close this letter without expressing to you our appreciation for the splendid way in which the Principal Secretary, Mr. R. T. Miller, and the other members of the staff appointed by you, discharged their arduous duties. Their detailed knowledge of the problems of the territories was invaluable and was generously made available at all times. The Mission is greatly indebted to them for their unfailing help and assistance.

Please accept, Sir, the assurances of our highest consideration.

Benjamin Gerig (United States of America)
Chairman

Georges Salomon (Haiti)

Rikhi Jaipal (India)

Gray Thorp (New Zealand)

DRAFTER Miller

REGISTRY FILE COPY

FILE No. TR 140 WAF'58

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LTF PINON HAUSSAIRE

YAOUNDE (FRENCH CAMEROONS)

RECONNAISSANT NOUS TELEGRAPHIER NOMS PRENOMS CHEFS REGION CHEFS

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UNITED NATIONS
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15 JAN 1959

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TR 140 UAF-1958

7 January 1959

Sir,

I have the honour to inform you that the Visiting Mission at present engaged in drafting its report to the Trusteeship Council on the Trust Territory of the Cameroons under British administration in accordance with resolution 1907 (XXII) has come to the conclusion that it may be desirable, for the completion of its report, to have additional information relating to the general elections to be held in the Southern Cameroons on 24 January.

For this purpose the Mission has requested me to invite you, on its behalf, to secure for it from the appropriate authorities as much of the information listed below as may be practicable to supply up to the first days of February. In view of the limited time which the Mission will have at its disposal, it would be appreciated if each item of information could be transmitted as soon as it becomes available, and by telegram unless indicated otherwise.

(1) by airmail as and when available, a copy of the campaign manifesto, or its equivalent, of the KNC/KPP Alliance, the KNDP and the OK parties;

(2) the global total of registered electors, and the total for each constituency;

(3) the first unofficial results of the elections - i.e. the number of seats apparently won by each party, if possible according to constituency -- as soon after 24 January as they are known;

(4) the total of votes cast, and the total cast for each party, if possible according to constituency, as soon as they are provisionally known;

(5) an indication of any expression of intention made by either main party immediately after the results have become known;

The Permanent Representative of the United
Kingdom to the United Nations
Seventh Floor
99 Park Avenue
New York 16, N.Y.

(6) any other information or comment useful for a tentative assessment of the results as far as they seem relevant to the future of the Southern Cameroons.

Please accept, Sir, the assurances of my highest consideration.

B. Gerig
Chairman
VISITING MISSION TO THE TRUST
TERRITORIES IN WEST AFRICA, 1958

DRAFTER Rapoport

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UNITED NATIONS MISSION

CUMBERLAND HOTEL

LONDON (ENGLAND) =

PLEASE CABLE ME URGENTLY EXACT INFORMATION DATE ARRIVAL NEWYORK

MEMBERS OF MISSION =

WIESCHHOFF NEWYORK +

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UNITED NATIONS
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STOP BASIS PRESS REPORTS 20 FEBRUARY DECISIONS AND OTHER REASONS

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FRENCH CABLE COMPANY
25 BROAD STREET, NEW YORK, TEL. HA 2-7934

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24 NOV 1958

DRAFTER Rapoport

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LTF MILLER

MISSION VISITE

CARE HAUSSAIRE

YAOUNDE (FRENCH CAMEROONS)

IT NOW SEEMS LIKELY THAT FOURTH COMMITTEE WILL RECOMMEND SPECIAL SESSION GENERAL ASSEMBLY ON CAMEROONS TO BE CONVENED EARLY 1959 AFTER EXAMINATION VISITING MISSIONS REPORT BY TRUSTEESHIP COUNCIL

WIESCHHOFF UNATIONS

CFM 1959

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TR 140 UAF 38

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MILLER

UNITED NATIONS MISSION

CARE COMMISSIONER CAMEROONS

BUEA (CAMEROONS)

TR 140 West Africa 1958

TRUSTEESHIP COUNCIL CONVENED YESTERDAY IN NINTH SPECIAL SESSION

AT REQUEST FRANCE ADOPTED TODAY FOLLOWING RESOLUTION QUOTE

THE TRUSTEESHIP COUNCIL HAVING DECIDED TO DISPATCH A PERIODIC VISITING MISSION TO THE TRUST TERRITORIES OF THE CAMEROONS UNDER BRITISH ADMINISTRATION AND THE CAMEROONS UNDER FRENCH

P2

ADMINISTRATION IN 1958 COMMA RECALLING ITS RESOLUTION 1907 22 OF 28 JULY 1958 RELATING TO THE TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THAT MISSION COMMA TAKING NOTE OF THE MOTION VOTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE CAMEROONS ON 24 OCTOBER 1958 COMMA TAKING NOTE FURTHER OF THE STATEMENT BY THE REPRESENTATIVE

P3

OF FRANCE COMMA DECIDES TO ADD THE FOLLOWING PARAGRAPH TO THE TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE VISITING MISSION PARENTHESES RESOLUTION 1907 22 PARENTHESES COLON 6 FURTHER REQUESTS THE VISITING MISSION TO SET FORTH ITS VIEWS ON THE PROCEDURE FOR ORGANIZING THE CONSULTATION WHICH WILL ENABLE THE PEOPLE OF THE CAMEROONS

P4/39

UNDER FRENCH ADMINISTRATION TO EXPRESS COMMA AT THE APPROPRIATE TIME COMMA THEIR WISHES CONCERNING THEIR FUTURE COMMA AND CONCERNING THE TERMINATION OF TRUSTEESHIP UPON THE ATTAINMENT OF FULL NATIONAL INDEPENDENCE IN 1960 UNQUOTE PLEASE INFORM MEMBERS VISITING MISSION

PROTITCH

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UNITED NATIONS
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REGISTRY SECTION

10 JUN 1958

TR 140 WAF-1958

Le 9 juin 1958

Monsieur l'Ambassadeur,

J'ai l'honneur d'accuser réception de votre lettre en date du 5 juin 1958 par laquelle vous m'avez informé que le Gouvernement d'Haïti propose M. Georges Salomon pour faire partie de la Mission de visite en Afrique occidentale en lieu et place de M. Dorsinville empêché.

Veuillez agréer, Monsieur l'Ambassadeur, les assurances de ma très haute considération.

B. Cohen
Sous-Secrétaire à la tutelle et aux
renseignements relatifs aux territoires
non autonomes

Son Excellence
Monsieur Edmond Sylvain
Représentant permanent d'Haïti
auprès des Nations Unies
Room 1006
32 Broadway
New York 4, N.Y.

MISSION PERMANENTE DE LA REPUBLIQUE
D'HAITI AUX NATIONS UNIES
32 BROADWAY
NEW YORK 4, N.Y.

TR 140 WAF-'58

Ackn. 9 June 58
I.B.

REGISTRY SECTION

No 337

New York le 5 Juin 1958.

Monsieur le Sous Secrétaire,

J'ai l'honneur de me référer à la lettre du 23 Avril 1958 No IIC/596 que vous a adressée le Secrétaire d'Etat des Affaires Etrangères d'Haiti pour vous informer que le Gouvernement d'Haiti propose l'Ambassadeur Max H. DORSINVILLE comme Membre de la prochaine Mission de Visite des Nations Unies dans les Territoires sous Tutelle du Cameroun.

J'ai recu instructions de vous informer que le Gouvernement haitien propose Monsieur Georges SALOMON, Conseiller d'Ambassade pour faire partie de la Mission de Visite projetée en lieu et place de l'Ambassadeur DORSINVILLE empéché.

Je saisis cette occasion, Monsieur le Sous Secrétaire, pour vous renouveler l'assurance de ma haute considération.

Edmond SYLVAIN
Ambassadeur
Représentant Permanent

M. B. COHEN
Sous-Secrétaire à la tutelle et aux
renseignements relatifs aux territoires
non autonomes
NEW YORK.

IB/cc

RECORDS CONTROL

8 MAY 1958

TR 140 WAF-1958

The Secretary-General of the United Nations presents his compliments to the Representative of the United States of America to the United Nations and has the honour to acknowledge receipt of his note dated 2 May 1958 relating to the nomination of Mr. Benjamin Gerig as a member of the periodic United Nations Visiting Mission to the Trust Territories of the Cameroons under British administration and the Cameroons under French administration.

The Secretary-General has the honour to state that this nomination will be brought to the attention of the Trusteeship Council at the appropriate time.

6 May 1958.

Do. Kierchhoff

B. Cohen

MAY 5 1958

UNITED STATES MISSION
TO THE UNITED NATIONS

Under-Secretary, TRI

MAY 5 1958

ACTION

B. Cohen

Completed

Signed

Required

I.B.

TR 140 W. Af.
'58

May 2, 1958

The Representative of the United States of America to the United Nations presents his compliments to the Secretary-General of the United Nations and has the honor to refer to note No. TR 140/WEST AFRICA, dated March 27, 1958, from the Under-Secretary for Trusteeship and Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories, inviting the United States to nominate a person as a member of the periodic United Nations Visiting Mission to the Cameroons under British administration and the Cameroons under French administration.

The Representative of the United States has the honor to advise that Mr. Benjamin Gerig, Alternate Representative of the United States on the Trusteeship Council, has been designated as the United States member on this Visiting Mission.

UN-2713/13

ASW

Wieschhoff

RECORD SYMBOL

8 APR 1960

REGISTRY FILE COPY

FILE No. TR 140 WAF 56

NY2537/4 FFF NEWYORK 25 25 1348EST UNGOVT
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LOME (FRENCH TOGOLAND)

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64 RAPOPORT HOPE TO RECEIVE DETAILS ELECTIONS AS QUICKLY AS

AVAILABLE STOP ADVISE DORSINVILLE HIS GOVERNMENT PROPOSED HIM AS

MEMBER CAMEROONS MISSION

WIESCHHOFF

CFM 64

TELEGRAPH UNIT
UNITED NATIONS

IB/cc

RECORDS CONTROL

28 APR 1958

TR 140 WAF-1958

28 April 1958

Sir,

I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of your letter of 18 April 1958, by which you informed me that Mr. W. G. Thorp has been nominated by your Government as a member of the 1958 Visiting Mission to Trust Territories in West Africa. The nomination will be brought to the attention of members of the Trusteeship Council at the appropriate time.

Accept, Sir, the assurances of my highest consideration.

B. Cohen
Under-Secretary for Trusteeship and
Information from Non-Self-Governing
Territories

His Excellency
Mr. Walter Nash
Prime Minister of New Zealand
Wellington
New Zealand

IB/cc

TR 140 WAF-1958

RECORDS CONTROL
28 APR 1958

Le 28 avril 1958

Monsieur le Ministre,

J'ai l'honneur d'accuser réception de votre lettre du 23 avril 1958, par laquelle vous m'avez informé que votre Gouvernement propose l'Ambassadeur Max H. Dorsinville comme membre de la prochaine Mission de visite des Nations Unies dans les Territoires sous tutelle du Cameroun sous administration britannique et du Cameroun sous administration française.

Cette nomination sera portée en temps utile à la connaissance des membres du Conseil de tutelle.

B. Cohen
Sous-Secrétaire à la tutelle et aux
renseignements relatifs aux territoires
non autonomes

Son Excellence
Monsieur Vilfort Beauvoir
Secrétaire d'Etat des Relations extérieures
a.b.s. de la Mission permanente d'Haïti
auprès des Nations Unies
Room 1006
32 Broadway
New York 4, N.Y.

RÉPUBLIQUE D'HAITI

Mr. Greenhoff
B. Cohen

APR 25 1958
Under-Secretary, TRI

DÉPARTEMENT
DES
AFFAIRES ÉTRANGÈRES

IIC/ 546

PORT-AU-PRINCE. LE 23 avril 1958

APR 24 1958
ACTION
TO Mr. B. Cohen
Action Completed
Acknowledged
No Action Required
INITIALS IB

TR 140 WAF-1958

Monsieur le Sous-Secrétaire,

J'ai le plaisir d'accuser réception de votre lettre du 27 Mars 1958, au No. TR.140/West Africa par laquelle vous portez officiellement à ma connaissance qu'Haiti a été invitée à faire partie de la Mission de visite des Nations Unies dans les Territoires du Cameroun sous administration britannique et française.

En réponse, je vous informe que le Gouvernement haitien propose son représentant titulaire au Conseil de Tutelle, l'Ambassadeur Max H. Dorsinville comme membre de ladite Mission.

Veuillez agréer, Monsieur le Sous-Secrétaire, l'assurance de ma considération distinguée.

Monsieur Benjamin COHEN,
Sous-Directeur à la tutelle et aux
renseignements relatifs aux territoires
non autonomes
NATIONS UNIES - NEW-YORK.

Dr. Cohen

B. Cohen

APR 25 1958

Under-Secretary, TRI

APR 25 1958

ACTION

TO Mr B. Cohen

☐ - Action Completed

✓

Prime Minister,

Wellington.

18April 1958

TR 140 WAF-1958

Sir,

I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of your letter TR 140/West Africa dated 27 March 1958 advising that New Zealand has been invited to nominate a person as a member of the periodic United Nations Visiting Mission to the Cameroons under British administration and the Cameroons under French administration.

The New Zealand Government wishes accordingly to nominate Mr W.G. Thorp, Second Secretary, New Zealand Permanent Mission to the United Nations, as a member of the Mission.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Prime Minister

Under-Secretary for Trusteeship and
Information from Non-Self-Governing
Territories,
United Nations,
NEW YORK.

IB/cc

CONTROL

TR 140 WAF (1958)

22 APR 1958

The Secretary-General of the United Nations presents his compliments to the Permanent Representative of India to the United Nations and has the honour to acknowledge receipt of his note No. 1140 of 11 April 1958 concerning the nomination of Mr. R. Jaipal for membership of the forthcoming Visiting Mission to Trust Territories in West Africa. The nomination will be brought to the attention of the members of the Trusteeship Council at an appropriate time.

17 April 1958.

B. Cohen

APR 14 1958

Under-Secretary, TR

PERMANENT MISSION OF INDIA
TO THE UNITED NATIONS
3 EAST 64TH STREET
NEW YORK 21, N. Y.

सत्यमेव जयते

No.1140

11 April 1958 APR 14 1958

ACTION
TO Mr. B. Cohen
Action Completed
Acknowledged
No Action Required
INITIALS IB

TR 140 WAF(1958)

The Permanent Representative of India to the United Nations presents his compliments to the Secretary-General of the United Nations and, with reference to the Trusteeship Council's election of India to be a member of the Visiting Mission to the Cameroons this year, has the honour to state that the Government of India have nominated Mr R. Jaipal, First Secretary of the Permanent Mission of India, for membership of the Visiting Mission. His curriculum vitae will be forwarded in due course.

PERMANENT MISSION OF INDIA * UNITED NATIONS *

The Secretary-General,
United Nations,
New York City.

2 PARK AVENUE
NEW YORK 16, N.Y.
MURRAY HILL 3-6810

B. Cohen

APR 2 1958
Under-Secretary, TRI

Dr. Loerchhoff

UNITED STATES MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS

APR 2 1958

April 1, 1958

ACTION
TO Mrs. B Cohen
☐ - Action Completed
☐ - Acknowledged
✓ - Action Required

TR 140 WAF (1958)

The Representative of the United States of America to the United Nations presents his compliments to the Secretary-General of the United Nations and has the honor to acknowledge the receipt of note No. TR 140/WEST AFRICA, dated March 27, 1958, from the Under-Secretary for Trusteeship and Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories, regarding the United Nations Visiting Mission to the Cameroons.

The Representative of the United States has the honor to advise that this communication has been transmitted to the Department of State.

UN-2713/12

ASW

/dw
RECORDS CONTROL

28 MAR 1958

TR.140/West Africa -158

Le 27 mars 1958.

Monsieur le Secrétaire d'Etat,

J'ai l'honneur de porter à votre connaissance que le Conseil de tutelle, au cours de sa 888ème séance, tenue le 26 mars 1958, a décidé d'inviter Haïti à désigner une personne pour être membre de la Mission de visite périodique des Nations Unies dans les Territoires du Cameroun sous administration britannique et du Cameroun sous administration française. Les autres Etats Membres ainsi invités sont l'Inde, la Nouvelle-Zélande et les Etats-Unis d'Amérique.

Le Conseil se prononcera, à sa vingt-deuxième session, sur le choix des personnes qui composeront la Mission de visite, l'itinéraire de la Mission et son mandat.

Veuillez agréer, Monsieur le Secrétaire d'Etat, les assurances de ma très haute considération.

B. Cohen
Sous-Secrétaire à la tutelle et aux
renseignements relatifs aux territoires
non autonomes

Monsieur le Secrétaire d'Etat des Relations
extérieures de la République d'Haïti,
a.b.s. de la Mission permanente d'Haïti
auprès des Nations Unies,
Room 1006,
32 Broadway,
New York 4, N.Y.

/dw

RECORDS CONTROL

28 MAR 1958

TR 140/West Africa - 58

27 March 1958.

Sir,

I have the honour to inform you that the Trusteeship Council, at its 888th meeting, on 26 March 1958, decided to invite New Zealand to nominate a person as a member of the periodic United Nations Visiting Mission to the Cameroons under British administration and the Cameroons under French administration. Other Member States so invited were Haiti, India and the United States of America.

The approval of the persons, the itinerary of the Visiting Mission and its terms of reference will be considered at the twenty-second session of the Council.

Accept, Sir, the assurances of my highest consideration.

B. Cohen
Under-Secretary for Trusteeship and
Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories

The Minister for External Affairs
of New Zealand,
Department of External Affairs,
Wellington,
New Zealand.

RECORDS CONTROL
28 MAR 1958

/dw

TR 140/WEST AFRICA -58

27 March 1958.

Sir,

I have the honour to inform you that the Trusteeship Council, at its 888th meeting, on 26 March 1958, decided to invite the United States of America to nominate a person as a member of the periodic United Nations Visiting Mission to the Cameroons under British administration and the Cameroons under French administration. Other Member States so invited were Haiti, India and New Zealand.

The approval of the persons, the itinerary of the Visiting Mission and its terms of reference will be considered at the twenty-second session of the Council.

Accept, Sir, the assurances of my highest consideration.

B. Cohen
Under-Secretary for Trusteeship and
Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories

The Secretary of State of the
United States of America,
c/o The United States Mission to
the United Nations,
2 Park Avenue,
New York 16, N.Y.

.dw

RECORDS CONTROL

28 MAR 1958

TR.140/West Africa -58

27 March 1958.

Sir,

I have the honour to inform you that the Trusteeship Council, at its 888th meeting, on 26 March 1958, decided to invite India to nominate a person as a member of the periodic United Nations Visiting Mission to the Cameroons under British administration and the Cameroons under French administration. Other Member States so invited were Haiti, New Zealand and the United States of America.

The approval of the persons, the itinerary of the Visiting Mission and its terms of reference will be considered at the twenty-second session of the Council.

Accept, Sir, the assurances of my highest consideration.

B. Cohen
Under-Secretary for Trusteeship and
Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories

The Minister for External Affairs of India,
c/o The Permanent Mission of India
to the United Nations,
India House,
3 East 64th Street,
New York 21, N.Y.

UNITED NATIONS

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Distr.
LIMITED

A/RES/1211 (XII)
16 December 1957

3 APR 1958

TR 140 WAF
1958

Twelfth session
Agenda item 13

RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

[on the report of the Fourth Committee (A/3779 and A/L.241)]

1211 (XII). Situation in the Trust Territories of the Cameroons under British administration and the Cameroons under French administration

The General Assembly,

Having studied the chapters of the report of the Trusteeship Council which relate to the Trust Territories of the Cameroons under British administration and the Cameroons under French administration,[1]

Noting continued tensions and disturbances in a certain area of the Cameroons under French administration,

Noting the fact that the amnesty law envisaged by the Administering Authority has not yet been promulgated,

Taking note of the progress achieved in both Territories and of the measures to that effect adopted by the Administering Authorities and by the authorities of both Cameroons,

Having heard and considered the statements of the petitioners from these Territories in the course of the hearings granted by the Fourth Committee,

Bearing in mind that the Trusteeship Council will, in the normal course, send a visiting mission to the two Territories in 1958,

1. Takes note of the pertinent chapters of the report of the Trusteeship Council;

2. Transmits the statements of the petitioners to the Trusteeship Council for further study;

1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Twelfth Session, Supplement No. 4 (A/3595 and Corr.1), part II, Chapters IV and V.

3. Recommends that the Trusteeship Council take into account the observations and suggestions made during the debate in the Fourth Committee, when the Council considers conditions in the Trust Territories of the Cameroons under British administration and the Cameroons under French administration at its twenty-first session;

4. Expresses the hope that, as a result of the application of appropriate measures, in particular the early promulgation of the amnesty law by the Administering Authority, and the renunciation of the use of violence by all political parties, it will be possible to achieve, in the Cameroons under French administration, conditions conducive to the early restoration of a normal situation in the disturbed area, and to the furtherance of democratic progress and political activities in the Territory;

5. Is confident that the appropriate steps to be taken by the Administering Authorities will further facilitate the realization in both Territories of the final objectives of the Trusteeship System, in accordance with the free expression of the wishes of the populations concerned, taking into account any alternative relative to their future status;

6. Requests the Trusteeship Council to instruct its next visiting mission, in 1958, to take into account the observations and suggestions made at the twelfth session of the General Assembly during the examination of the situation in the two Territories.

729th plenary meeting,
13 December 1957.