

tical advancement, the Council would begin its consideration of the section on economic advancement at the next meeting.

The meeting rose at 1.15 p.m.

257th meeting

FIFTY-FIFTH MEETING

*Held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva,
on Tuesday, 14 March 1950, at 3 p.m.*

President : Mr. HENRÍQUEZ UREÑA
(Dominican Republic) (*Vice-President*)

Present : The representatives of the following countries : Argentina, Australia, Belgium, China, Dominican Republic, France, Iraq, New Zealand, Philippines, United Kingdom, United States of America.

101. Examination of annual reports on the administration of Trust Territories (*continued*)

CAMEROONS UNDER FRENCH ADMINISTRATION, 1948
(T/368, T/462 and T/L.56) (*continued*)

Economic advancement

1. Mr. GERIG (United States of America) drew the attention of the Council to written question 21 (T/L.56) put by his Government to the special representative of the Administering Authority which ran : " To what extent does the Administering Authority consider that the Territory, through its own human and natural resources, will be able to continue and to maintain the level of development thus attained ? " An extensive programme of economic development, comprising the construction of roads and bridges, the extension of the railway network, harbour development, building schemes for schools and hospitals, had been undertaken by the Administering Authority. The rate of progress was evidently rapid, and he was greatly concerned to know to what extent the cost of that heavy capital investment programme would have to be borne by the Territory itself. To what extent was the Territory under an obligation to pay interest and redeem the principal ? Was there any risk of so encumbering the Territory with debt as to jeopardize its future financial position ?

2. Mr. WATIER (special representative) explained that the Administering Authority had devoted considerable attention to that question, which had constituted a major factor in balancing the ten-year development plan for the Territory. It was obvious that the type of development contemplated had to take account of the Territory's economic resources. The Territory's mining statistics to date afforded no grounds for assuming that it would ever possess a heavy industry of any considerable size. In any event, its future development would be based on its natural economy, which was primarily agricultural and silvicultural, and to a lesser extent pastoral. The details of the ten-year plan had been worked out on that basis, but they naturally allowed

for a certain degree of industrialization of the Territory, particularly in the field of the primary processing of raw materials.

3. The problem of amortizing the debt contracted by the Territory for the purposes of developing its economy had been very carefully studied. The plans for amortization were not confined to repayment of loans, but also covered the additional expenditure which the Territory's budget would naturally have to bear as a result of the increased rate and extent of development.

4. The Administering Authority had taken the view that that increased expenditure would in part be offset by the development of the Territory which its improved equipment would necessarily bring in its train.

5. It had been estimated that the over-all charges of the ten-year plan would represent an increased expenditure for the Territory of about 1,000,000,000 francs a year for some thirty years, that was, an increase of about 28 per cent over the present budget. The Territory could bear that burden without difficulty.

6. A very considerable part of the sums invested under the plan took the form of subsidies provided by metropolitan France without security. Moreover, interest was charged on loans advanced by the metropolitan country at a rate of only 2 %.

7. The expansion of the Territory's administrative machinery, which the detailed implementation of the plan was bound to entail, would be a heavy item.

8. Mr. GERIG (United States of America) expressed his satisfaction with the reply given by the special representative. It was often felt that a Territory should depend largely upon its own resources for its development, but in the case in point the Administering Authority was advancing large sums for such development in the knowledge that the resources of the Territory were adequate to justify such loans. Such action should be welcomed, provided that it did not entail a heavy burden of taxation for the native population.

9. Passing to the problem of the relation between wages and prices of consumer goods, he wondered whether the Administering Authority was taking any steps to bring consumer goods within the range of the average wage-earner, whose pay, he understood, averaged only twenty-eight francs a day. The disparity between the prices of consumer goods and the wage-level appeared to be considerable.

10. Mr. WATIER (special representative) said he believed that the concept of an average wage should be treated with great caution. To add up the average wage paid in the various regions of the Territory and strike a new average by dividing the resultant total by the number of regions was scarcely practicable. In some regions, there were very few undertakings employing wage-earners, whereas in others the number was very considerable. At present, an extremely large proportion of works in progress were concentrated in the southern and south-western region. In those areas wages were above the average quoted by the United States representative, and, in some cases were as high

as fifty to seventy francs a day. Conversely, in other regions living was relatively cheap, so far as the African was concerned, and wage rates were much lower. Hence it was not quite fair to work out an over-all average wage.

11. There was, nevertheless, a certain disparity between wages and the prices of a large number of imported goods. The difficult nature of the wage problem in the Territory arose from the clash between two economies; one of raw material production, the other of imported products. Such a situation was by no means peculiar to the Cameroons.

12. When fixing the minimum subsistence level, on which minimum wages were based, the joint commissions took into account imported manufactured goods essential to the indigenous inhabitants. There was a somewhat precarious balance between the price of the foodstuffs which constituted the ordinary diet of the indigenous inhabitants, and the prices of the imported goods, largely clothing, which they required. Import prices had fluctuated rather widely over the past few years, but were now becoming stabilized, and the fixing of minimum subsistence levels every six months in accordance with the regulations might be regarded as symptomatic of a more normal state of affairs.

13. The Administration had endeavoured to promote the supply of foodstuffs to urban centres, and particularly to the areas where labour was more concentrated. It had set up non-profit-making consumer co-operatives, buying at wholesale prices, and government shops in which the types of goods consumed by the indigenous inhabitants were sold at cost price.

14. Any movement to increase wages was handicapped by the fact that the productivity of indigenous labour was definitely low. Undertakings with no time to spare had been obliged to recruit European labour to serve both as a stimulus and as an example for indigenous workers under training. At first, the productivity of a European worker had been ten times that of the indigenous worker, but the output of the latter had improved fairly rapidly, and it had not been long before the figure had dropped to seven times. That fact clearly demonstrated the educative value of European labour but, at the same time, the figures themselves were very revealing. It should be remembered that the indigenous labourer was working in his own country, whereas the productivity of European labour was impaired by the severe climatic conditions. Wages could naturally be raised if undertakings employing indigenous labour could be certain of an increased productivity.

15. Mr. GERIG (United States of America) asked whether consumer co-operatives were proving effective in keeping prices down, or whether they competed with some distributing firms such as John Hall's United Africa Company. His personal experience of the matter, as a member of the Visiting Mission, had been mixed, and he had gained the impression that their performance was very uneven, but it was a point on which he would be grateful for clarification.

16. Mr. WATIER (special representative) stated that, generally speaking, the introduction of indigenous consumer co-operatives had produced excellent results for a number of reasons. To begin with, they had been granted special facilities by the Administration, which, in accordance with its policy of encouraging co-operative enterprise, had given them every possible support. For instance, they enjoyed cheap rates for the transport to urban markets of goods consumed by the indigenous population. In that way, too rapid fluctuations in the cost of living had been avoided, and the gap between wages and cost of living due to price variations in the domestic market had not been unduly widened.

17. The co-operatives in question sold not only manioc and cooking bananas, but also fish, and a co-operative of African fishermen, established at Kribi, organized fishing operations, the preparation of fish and its distribution throughout the Territory. Whereas formerly it had been extremely difficult for the indigenous population to obtain fish, supplies were more easily procurable at present, at prices which were both profitable to producers and reasonable for consumers. Co-operatives engaged in rice production had shown equally encouraging results.

18. Moreover, as he had made clear in his answers to written questions, the Administration had also set up price-controlled stores with a view to regulating the market in local produce in important towns such as Duala. It had been the desire of the Administration that the indigenous inhabitants should themselves have participated in such undertakings, which were of a co-operative nature, and when it had first been proposed that they should be set up, the Administration had asked the trade unions, which had previously been loud in their protests against the rise in food prices, to take over the organization and operation of the price-controlled stores, with the help of the credit facilities provided by the Administration. The trade unions, however, and in particular the *Confédération générale du Travail*, which had vigorously criticized the Administration for its inactivity in the matter of food supplies in Duala, had refused to co-operate. Once more, it had been left to the Administration to introduce that beneficial innovation itself.

19. Mr. GERIG (United States of America), recalling the complaints made in some of the petitions that it was more difficult for Africans to benefit by the credit facilities provided for starting up new enterprises than it was for Europeans, asked if those complaints were well-founded; if so, what were the reasons for such discrimination.

20. Mr. WATIER (special representative) explained that it was precisely with a view to facilitating the grant of loans to members of the local population to enable them, for example, to develop a small plantation or set up in business that a credit institution, the *Crédit du Cameroun*, had been set up in 1949. Even before that, however, it had become the practice in the Territory to make generous advances to indigenous inhabitants wishing to set up in business. Such loans had been financed either by the *Caisse de crédit agricole*, or directly

out of the budget, but, in both cases, authorization had to be obtained from the local Representative Assembly.

21. When called upon to grant further loans for the same purpose in 1949, the Representative Assembly, the composition of which was mainly African, had been obliged to refuse them because seventy-five per cent of the short-term, that was, two year, loans already granted to Africans had not been repaid, whereas those to Europeans had been fully redeemed.

22. The *Crédit du Cameroun* had since taken the place of the *Caisse de crédit agricole*, the functions of which were rather more specialized, and had also relieved the ordinary budget of the Territory of the onus of providing loans, which was not normally framed to include such operations. The resources at the disposal of the *Crédit du Cameroun* were fairly modest, as it was still in the experimental stage. They would, however, be considerably extended if the loans granted were duly repaid or, at least, of the charges and interest were regularly met. It was to be hoped that the *Crédit du Cameroun*, which was administered by a Board on which indigenous inhabitants were in the majority, would play a very important part in developing the Territory.

23. The Trusteeship Council had, on a number of occasions, expressed astonishment at the humble part played by Africans in the development of Trust Territories. The reason was that the financial education of the indigenous inhabitant was still in its early stage, and that the ideas of thrift and financial responsibility were not very well developed. It would, therefore, also be the rôle of the *Crédit du Cameroun* to provide such education and accustom the inhabitants to make proper use of the credit facilities at their disposal.

24. Mr. GERIG (United States of America) asked why the natives of the Trust Territory were regarded as poor credit risk, and the reasons for such frequent defaults on their part. If the former were due to their lack of financial and business experience, steps might be taken to assist them in the management of funds, and to direct their initiative into sound fields of investment, so that they could obtain credit on the same terms as Europeans. He would have expected natives like the Bamiléké, in the area north of Duala, who were engaged in growing coffee, a crop easy to sell and which yielded quick returns, to have gained sufficient financial experience by now to justify advances being made to them.

25. Mr. WATIER (special representative) said he found it difficult to give a general reply to that question because of the wide variation from tribe to tribe in the rational use of their income.

26. The Bamiléké were without doubt an industrious and thrifty tribe, who knew how to put their money to good use and who had above all a highly developed commercial sense. Generally speaking, they used the loans granted to them to good purpose but were not always so good at paying them back. For that reason, although they lent money freely amongst themselves, they rarely found persons outside their tribe willing to give them credit.

27. There were, on the other hand, other tribes who, in view of the assured nature of their income, might have been expected to develop more rapidly: for example, those engaged in producing cocoa, a crop which could be grown without much trouble and yielded excellent returns. Cocoa producers, however, spent the proceeds of their biannual crops as soon as they received the money for them, and it was rare for them to undertake any development requiring the investment of several years' income. Still, many villages of the cocoa-growing area had raised their standard of living considerably, as the Visiting Mission had seen for itself. However, it might have been hoped that the wealth earned out of cocoa, all of which went to the indigenous inhabitants, would have produced somewhat more impressive developments in the life of the indigenous inhabitant.

28. Mr. RYCKMANS (Belgium) said he had had personal experience of the question, and thought that the position might perhaps be the same in the Cameroons as it was in the Belgian Congo.

29. In the matter of loans, in particular, most natives had no idea of what was meant by amortization.

30. He asked the special representative what were the conditions for land registration with which the indigenous inhabitants had to comply, and whether they had shown any desire to register forest land. Judging by a large number of petitions, they were in many cases claiming private property rights over forests which the Administration considered to be State property.

31. Mr. WATIER (special representative) replied that forest land could be registered in the same way as other land, irrespective of whether application was made by an individual or by a collective body. The decree of 1932, which laid down regulations for the recognition of native real property, applied to any sort of land.

32. So far, no native collective body had ever applied for recognition of property rights over forests, unless such forests had been partially exploited by felling or cleared for native plantations.

33. Mr. RYCKMANS (Belgium) asked what evidence was required in support of an application for recognition of property rights. Must the land have been developed, or could a tribe, for instance, apply for registration in its name of the whole of the territory over which it exercised political authority?

34. Mr. WATIER (special representative) stated that the provisions of the law regarding evidence of ownership were in fact rather vague. Any person applying for the registration, or even the recognition, of property rights was required to provide evidence of ownership. In practice, it was somewhat difficult to decide as to the possession of a right, as the principle usually followed was that of occupation plus exploitation. However, in a country as sparsely populated as the Cameroons, actual occupation could hardly be considered sufficient evidence. On the other hand, native methods of cultivation, which tied up a lot of land, much of which lay fallow, meant that large areas were required

to feed a relatively small population. The Administration took those factors into account in the recognition of property rights.

35. Mr. RYCKMANS (Belgium) pointed out that the petitions and the Visiting Mission's report (T/462) showed that the classification of forests had given rise to serious disputes and difficulties. In particular, it appeared that some natives were refusing to recognize public rights over vacant land. He wished to know whether the Administration proposed to override their objections in the interests of the Territory as a whole, or to abandon the classification of forests, in the event of its being unable to obtain the consent of the indigenous inhabitants.

36. Mr. WATIER (special representative) remarked that it was a somewhat delicate question. Native opposition to the classification of forests often arose from an entirely mistaken idea of what it entailed. The Administering Authority was classifying forests and including them in its *domaine privé* as a measure of conservation, and not in order to deprive the inhabitants of their land. The point at issue was the protection by administrative regulation of a forest belt, which would be threatened with complete destruction, unless steps for its conservation were taken forthwith. The indigenous inhabitants did not understand that.

37. The complaints against the system adopted for vacant and ownerless lands also arose from confusion in the minds of the indigenous inhabitants. Where vacant land was taken into the *domaine privé* of the Territory it was certainly not with a view to depriving the native population of its lands for the benefit of the Administering Authority, but, on the contrary, as a means of protecting the interests of the indigenous inhabitants of the Territory as a whole.

38. He pointed out that the *domaine privé* of the Territory was entirely separate from the domain of metropolitan France. The Cameroon people were the owners of the *domaine privé* and the French Government did not own one piece of land in the Territory.

39. With regard to reserved forests, an attempt was being made by means of systematic propaganda to make the Africans realize that classification did not deprive them of their right of usufruct, and that, in preventing the systematic destruction of forests, the Administration was merely conserving their natural wealth. An effort was also being made to persuade them to agree voluntarily to the limitation of their use of forest land which classification entailed, but it was very difficult to make them understand. The main reason for that lay in the fact that some lands put up for sale by the Administration, after being classified as *domaine privé*, had acquired increased value from the very fact of the development of the Territory, for instance, owing to the expansion of some towns, or a sudden spurt in industrial activity. That increase in land value did not escape the indigenous inhabitants, who firmly believed that their Cameroon soil possessed this intrinsic value in itself, and could not understand that the appreciation was due to entirely fortuitous circum-

stances. In claiming sole ownership of the whole Territory, the inhabitants thought they were reserving to the tribes the benefits to be obtained from future sale. It was quite useless to try to point out to them the errors inherent in that assumption.

40. Mr. RYCKMANS (Belgium) said he was in entire agreement with the special representative. It was the duty of the Administering Authority to husband the *domaine privé* of the Territory. The principle that vacant lands should belong to the State was unimpeachable. It was precisely for that reason that he had enquired what evidence was required for the registration of indigenous lands. The whole policy of the Administering Authority with regard to forest reserve and the protection of the *domaine privé* would be imperilled if a tribe or a village were able, by applying for the registration of a forest, to secure recognition as the legal owner of the whole area over which it exercised political authority. In the event, the forest would be sold by the local villages, and the indigenous inhabitants of the Territory as a whole would derive no benefit therefrom, which might well be squandered. He did not, however, think it possible for the Administration to classify a forest which had already become private property.

41. Mr. WATIER (special representative) stated that a whole forest would never be recognized as the property of a single community. That part of the forests considered necessary for the expansion of indigenous cultivation might be so recognized, but the area involved would be relatively small by comparison with the forest resources of the Territory as a whole.

42. Mr. DUSSAUT (Argentina) asked the special representative which items of the ten-year plan had been amended by the local Representative Assembly, as that would show what that Assembly thought of the guiding principles followed by the metropolitan country in drawing up the plan.

43. Mr. WATIER (special representative) agreed that such an analysis would undoubtedly be of interest. Unfortunately, however, he had no precise information on the subject. He had asked for the records of the Assembly's debates, and comparison of the Administration's proposals with the decisions finally adopted would show in what directions the Representative Assembly had amended them.

44. Mr. FLETCHER-COOKE (United Kingdom) said he had been interested to learn from the economic section of the annual report¹ that the main objective of the Administering Authority in the economic field was to raise the standard of living of the African inhabitants and that the economic development by which it was to be achieved was regarded as a necessary precondition for social and political progress, a view which had been put forward on several occasions in connexion with the Territories for which the United Kingdom Government was responsible. He welcomed the atten-

¹ See *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 1948.

tion that was being given to improving standards of health and diet, and to the encouragement of livestock and fisheries schemes. He was pleased to note the expansion of personal savings bank deposits and the great increase in the number of African depositors. The account of the new Sanaga hydro-electric scheme contained some noteworthy features, one being the hope that it would make possible the electrification of the railway system, thereby reducing the import requirements of the Territory in coal. The Administering Authority was to be commended on the steps taken to associate Africans in the control of that scheme, as well as in the control of other new public utilities, including various palm-oil projects. There was no evidence to suggest that cash crops and large scale commercial exploitation were being unduly favoured; in fact, measures were in hand the purpose of which was to restrict the area devoted to specific export crops, such as coffee and bananas, which showed that the Administering Authority was as much concerned in fostering the cultivation of those crops which the African inhabitants could use for their own immediate purposes.

45. Another aspect of economic development worthy of the Council's commendation was the promotion of improved methods of agriculture directed towards raising the yield and quality of the crops, the preservation of soil fertility and the prevention of soil erosion. The vigorous policy being pursued was well illustrated by the measures taken to increase the use of fertilizers, to fix the minimum girth of trees for felling, and to determine the maximum permissible density of the livestock population.

46. It was encouraging to see signs of a favourable attitude towards co-operation between consumers, which, it was to be hoped, would contribute to the solution of the supply problem in urban districts. In addition, producers' co-operatives of various kinds appeared to be firmly established.

47. As the development of palm-oil production was apparently important, not only from the export angle, but also because it constituted the main source of fats for the indigenous population, it was interesting to learn of the projected schemes to encourage better methods of production by the erection of two new pilot plants. Those plants appeared to have been a free gift from metropolitan France; a point on which he would like confirmation.

48. It was appropriate that emphasis should be placed on the importance of road development, in view of the enormous increase in the volume and weight of road traffic since the war, as well as of the shortage of labour, equipment and raw materials. The Administering Authority was surely well justified in concentrating its efforts on the upkeep and improvement of the existing network, the expansion of which was planned in the near future as equipment and materials became available.

49. He wished also to make a brief reference to a point which was doubtless covered more fully in a later section of the report—namely, the creation of the compensation fund in February 1948. He understood

that its object was to combat the inflationary pressure arising from the devaluation of the franc in the previous month. The fund was operated by taxation of exports, the revenue so derived being used to subsidize essential imports. So far as he could judge, neither that nor any other scheme contained the stabilization element devised in the schemes in the West African Territories under United Kingdom administration, for the purpose of building up a reserve which would enable the prices paid to producers to be maintained even in the event of a decline in world prices. He was therefore anxious to learn whether any of the measures taken in the Territories under French administration had the same purpose, and if not whether other plans to achieve that end were under consideration.

50. Mr. WATIER (special representative) explained that the pilot plants for the development of the palm-oil and oil-seed industry in the Territory had been set up on the initiative of the *Institut de recherche des huiles et oléagineux*. That institute had been established by the French Government, and was investigating on the spot the best methods of utilizing the oil and oil-seed resources of the country, and of developing a primary processing industry for oil products. The research institutes had their own budget, and were financed exclusively by subsidies from the metropolitan country, so that the work they accomplished was a free contribution by France to the development of the Territory.

51. The two pilot plants which the Institute planned to set up would be of inestimable value for demonstration purposes and as a means of instructing the native population and would cost the Territory absolutely nothing.

52. The compensation fund had been established in 1948 to counteract any possible effects on the domestic market of the devaluation of the franc in January 1948. It had been financed out of the increase in the value of exports at the new rate of exchange. The money so raised had been for the purchase of imported goods, which had made it possible for several months to maintain the prices of the most widely-used consumer goods, such as textiles, sugar, kerosene, etc., at the previous level.

53. The fund had operated very satisfactorily until the beginning of 1949, when it had been abolished, partly because the economy of the Territory had gradually adapted itself to the new price-levels resulting from the devaluation, but mainly because the value of the Cameroons franc itself had been adjusted to the present rate of two French to one Cameroon franc.

54. It was quite correct that no official steps were taken to counteract the repercussions on the economy of the Territory of fluctuations in the world prices of raw materials. The policy followed by the Administration in that field consisted rather in encouraging the primary processing of raw materials produced in the Cameroons so that they reached the world market as semi-finished products, the prices of which were less susceptible to fluctuation. The establishment of the initial local processing industry would thus increase the Territory's over-all revenue of the Cameroons.

55. Mr. CARPIO (Philippines) asked the special representative whether the estimated expenditure for 1948, given as 1,193,773,000 francs on page 81 of the annual report, included expenditure on the implementation of the ten-year development plan.

56. Mr. WATIER (special representative) replied in the negative, and explained that the budget referred to by the representative of the Philippines was what was known as the ordinary budget of the Territory. The ten-year plan only affected the budget indirectly, in the shape of amortisation charges and interest on sums already advanced for its implementation. The relevant figure for 1948 was only 10,800,000 francs, which was relatively low.

57. Mr. CARPIO (Philippines), having noted that in 1948 the estimated revenue had exactly equalled the estimated expenditure, inquired whether he would be correct in concluding that, apart from the requirements of the ten-year plan the territory was self-supporting.

58. Mr. WATIER (special representative) said it was true that the budget had always been balanced, and that the Territory was self-supporting. Nevertheless, a fairly large proportion of the revenue was accounted for by a contribution from metropolitan France in the shape of the salaries of certain grades of officials. The sum involved, which was the only contribution from metropolitan France to the ordinary budget of the Cameroons, would be shown in the budget for 1949. Other contributions affected only the loans budget.

59. Mr. CARPIO (Philippines) wondered whether the special representative could indicate the extent of the financial contribution of metropolitan France.

60. Mr. WATIER (special representative) repeated that the metropolitan Government did not subsidize the ordinary budget of the Territory and that any subsidies granted mainly affected the ten-year plan.

61. Mr. CARPIO (Philippines) recalled that in his earlier replies the special representative had estimated the amount which the Trust Territory would expend on the ten-year development plan at 1,000 million francs, and asked whether such outlay represented only amortization charges and payment of interest.

62. Mr. WATIER (special representative) agreed as to the figure he had quoted, but explained that he had included in that figure, over and above interest and redemption charges, the increased expenditure on the development of the economic and social services under the ten-year plan and the cost of equipping the Territory.

63. Mr. CARPIO (Philippines) inquired whether the amount of 1,000 million francs represented annual expenditure, or was to be spread over the whole thirty years.

64. Mr. WATIER (special representative) said it was difficult to estimate for how long the additional annual expenditure of 1,000 million francs would appear in the Territory's budget, since interest and redemption charges fell off as the loans were redeemed. On the other hand, the increased expenditure entailed by

strengthening the services in the Territory represented an additional charge which would continue unaffected by the passage of time, and might even increase. He had mentioned thirty years as an estimate of the period over which the decreasing servicing charges and increasing expenditure for equipment would more or less balance.

65. Mr. CARPIO (Philippines) said that language difficulties had rendered his perusal of the annual report somewhat difficult; he would be obliged if the special representative would give him some idea of the current position regarding the loans made to the Territory.

66. Mr. WATIER (special representative) pointed out that section III of the annual report dealt with commitments and expenditure so far incurred under the ten-year plan. He would quote only the grand totals. In 1946, the first year of the plan, commitments had amounted to 467 million francs. In the following year, they had been totalled 393 million francs, and for the extended financial year 1947, 1,335 million francs. The expenditure for 1948/49 had been 2,556 million francs, to which must be added supplementary credits amounting to 1,484,500,000 francs. That sum had been added before the Representative Assembly of the Cameroons and the *Comité métropolitain du Fonds d'investissement pour le développement économique et social* had voted the 1949/50 instalment of the credit. Together, those sums represented a total of 6,235,500,000 Cameroons francs or, from the point of view of actual disbursements, 3,348,500,000 Cameroon francs. The French franc equivalents of those figures could be obtained by multiplying by two.

67. Mr. CARPIO (Philippines) asked the special representative if he could amplify the answer to question 25 (T/L.56) by saying who were the grantees of the "nine agricultural concessions amounting to 1,167 hectares". That information had been asked for specifically.

68. Mr. WATIER (special representative) explained that on receiving the question he had asked the Administration of the Territory to transmit the information requested. He expected a reply shortly. A total of 1,167 hectares for nine concessions meant that each concession must be very small. He failed to see how the names of the concessionaries could be of any interest.

69. Mr. CARPIO (Philippines) remarked upon the reference in the annual report to "land psychosis", and asked the special representative for a short description of the nature and extent of that phenomenon.

70. Mr. WATIER (special representative) explained that the report had called attention to the sudden desire on the part of the indigenous population to claim ownership of land in the Territory, a matter in which they had hitherto displayed little interest, despite all the facilities provided by French legislation in the matter of the registration of titles to land. Twice as many applications for registration of titles had been lodged in 1948 as in all the preceding years put together. A kind of spontaneous movement had sprung up among the indigenous inhabitants in favour of registration, which might be due to the fact that they had been

struck by sudden increases in the value of certain urban or suburban land, and had assumed that all land was just as valuable, not realizing the effect of speculation. There had been so many applications for registration of titles to land that the *Service des domaines* had been overwhelmed and had been unable to deal with them all as expeditiously as it had wished. In addition, some applications of questionable public interest had been submitted in some haste, but the Administration, anxious as ever to safeguard the interests of the communities, had endeavoured to find a just solution in each case. In some cases where the word of tribal chiefs had been taken, it had been ascertained that they had subsequently disposed of the land registered in their name, not as chiefs, but as individuals, and had simply kept the proceeds. Hence the Administration was seeking to devise every possible safeguard to ensure that titles were granted to the real owners.

71. Mr. CARPIO (Philippines) said he assumed that not only chiefs but also individual claimants had joined in the rush to register land and asked what sort of title deed was issued to them.

72. Mr. WATIER (special representative) explained that procedure for the registration of titles to land was strictly regulated by law. To begin with, there was a thorough investigation of the customary rights held or claimed by the applicant. Then an inquiry *de commodo et incommodo* was held. A period of legal published notice had also to be observed, and the reply of the *chef de région* or *chef de subdivision* concerned awaited. When the claim had been established, the Governor granted the title, by decree, to the individual or the community which had lodged the application. The land concerned was surveyed, and particulars recorded in a *livret foncier* which was thereafter handed to the registered owner, and in which all subsequent changes affecting the land were entered.

73. Mr. CARPIO (Philippines) in order to bring out the extent of the facilities available for dealing with the rush to register land, asked what percentage of the applications filed in any year were dealt with in that year.

74. Mr. WATIER (special representative) said that, if memory served him aright, the figures requested by the representative of the Philippines were given in the report. However, he would point out that 133 titles had been granted in 1948 as against 58 in the preceding year. The highest figure reached in any previous year had been 91 in 1946. The figure of 133 titles granted for 1948 represented approximately one half of the applications received by the *Service des domaines*. He referred the representative of the Philippines to the table on page 162 of the annual report which showed that the number of applications had been fairly low until 1948, which explained the inability of the *Service des domaines* to deal with all the applications received that year. There had been a shortage of qualified surveyors, whose services were indispensable for drafting cadastral plans. The Administration had taken the necessary steps to recruit more qualified surveyors in

France and to equip the *Service des domaines* in such a way as to enable it to deal with the many applications for registration which it was receiving.

75. Mr. CRAW (New Zealand), referring to the point made by the United Kingdom representative concerning the establishment of a stabilization fund, stated that he unfortunately had not fully understood the special representative's reply. He therefore requested him to elaborate his explanation of the Administering Authority's policy in that connexion, and especially with regard to the cocoa industry.

76. Mr. WATIER (special representative) explained that the policy adopted by the French Administration in relation to the stabilization of the prices of the Territory's various products differed somewhat from that pursued by the British Administration. Instead of setting up a stabilization fund, the French Administration had concentrated on the processing of raw products, in order that they might, so far as possible, be sold in the semi-finished state and thereby be affected to a lesser extent by the excessive fluctuations to which prices of unfinished raw materials were subject. Nevertheless, in certain cases the Administration had been obliged to create special reserves to protect certain products, and the metropolitan country had at times been compelled to introduce protective tariffs in favour of African raw materials. He also pointed out that the funds of certain institutions such as the *Caisse de crédit agricole* or the *Caisse centrale des sociétés de prévoyance* were largely used to stabilize the market when world prices seemed likely to cause a sudden decline in the prices of local products.

77. Mr. CARPIO (Philippines) inquired whether miners received higher wages than other workers, and maintained a different standard of living from them.

78. Mr. WATIER (special representative) thought the question asked by the representative of the Philippines belonged rather to the social field, but explained that there could be no comparison between mining as carried out in the Territory and mining in general, since all the mines in the Territory consisted of open-cast workings, so that work in them was more like work on any construction site. It had therefore not appeared necessary to treat the workers in the mines very differently from the workers in any other undertaking. Since, generally speaking, the labour was not drawn from the area around the mine, camps had been set up where the workers could live with their families in conditions similar to those obtaining in their own villages.

79. Mr. CARPIO (Philippines) said he would appreciate information as to whether there was any difference between the standards of living of mine-workers and agricultural workers on plantations.

80. Mr. WATIER (special representative) pointed out that work in the mines could hardly be compared with work on the plantations. On the latter, for which seasonal labour was normally engaged, the worker was paid by the day or by the task as the case might be. On the other hand, workers in the mines, where labour

was stable, received wages of the same order as those of workers employed, for example, on large-scale public works.

81. Mr. CARPIO (Philippines) referred to the observation of the Visiting Mission in part I of its report, to the effect that the life of the workers and their families, although those workers were engaged in an industry that conjured up ideas of wealth, since it consisted of winning from the earth a most precious substance of paramount value, was harsh and primitive. Did the special representative consider that statement to be a true expression of the conditions prevailing in the mining community?

82. Mr. WATIER (special representative) thought the remark in the Visiting Mission's report had been inspired by the Mission's observations during its visit to a mine in the Betaré-Oya area. The members of the Visiting Mission had not unnaturally been struck by the primitive and crude working-methods employed. But such work was no harder than, for example, navvying on any public works scheme.

The meeting rose at 5.5 p.m.

258th meeting

FIFTY-SIXTH MEETING

*Held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva,
on Wednesday, 15 March 1950, at 10.45 a.m.*

President : Mr. Roger GARREAU.

Present : The representatives of the following countries : Argentina, Australia, Belgium, China, Dominican Republic, France, Iraq, New Zealand, Philippines, United Kingdom, United States of America.

Observers from the following countries : Egypt, Israel, Hashemite Kingdom of the Jordan, Syria.

102. Statement by the President on the hearing of representatives of the All-Ewe Conference

1. The PRESIDENT stated that Mr. E. Amu, General-Secretary of the All-Ewe Conference, had been informed by telegram of the decision taken by the Council at the fifty-third meeting to defer to the next session examination of questions relating to the Trust Territories of Togoland under British administration and Togoland under French administration, but that the telegram had reached him after the departure for Geneva of the three representatives of the Conference. They had just arrived in Geneva and he therefore proposed that they be heard on the date originally fixed—namely, 20 March 1950, at the afternoon meeting—when questions could be put to them. The examination of all the documents before the Council relating to the Ewe question, including the reports and petitions would, however, still take place at the next session of the Council, as arranged.

2. Mr. FLETCHER-COOKE (United Kingdom) and Mr. DE LEUSSE (France) supported the President's proposal.

The President's proposal was unanimously adopted.

103. Question of an international regime for the Jerusalem area and protection of the Holy Places (General Assembly resolution 303 (IV) of 9 December 1949) (T/118/Rev.2, T/423, T/L.35, T/L.58, T/L.60) (resumed from the 52nd meeting)

SECOND READING OF THE DRAFT STATUTE FOR JERUSALEM (T/118/Rev.2 and T/L.35) (continued)

Article 31 : Educational system and cultural and benevolent institutions (resumed from the 52nd meeting)

3. The PRESIDENT called the attention of the Council to the joint proposal of the delegations of Belgium, the Philippines and the United States of America concerning article 31 (T/L.58).

4. Mr. RYCKMANS (Belgium) stated that the authors of the proposal had reached agreement on all paragraphs except paragraph 3 for which two alternative and irreconcilable texts were proposed. The first would provide that the City should maintain or supervise an adequate system of primary and secondary education on an equitable basis for all communities, so that if the Churches maintained schools the City would merely have to supervise them though it would itself have to maintain schools for all communities which did not. The second alternative rested on the principle that all inhabitants of the City were entitled, by virtue of the fact that they paid taxes, to free primary education for their children in their respective languages and in accordance with their respective cultural traditions. The City could either organize such education itself or subsidize the religious communities which would be responsible for it.

5. He pointed out that the proposal contained in paragraph 3A provided for both primary and secondary education, whereas that contained in paragraph 3B provided only for primary education. If paragraph 3B were adopted, it would therefore be advisable to add the word "secondary" after the word "Technical" in paragraph 2.

6. Mr. SAYRE (United States of America) said that the authors of the proposal had clearly recognized the necessity of a choice between the two alternatives set out in paragraphs 3A and 3B and had agreed to leave the final decision to the Council. The fundamental difference between the two paragraphs was expressed in the opening clause of each, paragraph 3B leaving the choice between maintenance or subsidy to the authorities of the City, paragraph 3A providing that an adequate system of primary and secondary education should be maintained under the City's administration or supervision, the schools run by communities being subject to supervision alone. Those who favoured paragraph 3A wished to leave to the Legislative Council the power to take its own decisions on the payment of subsidies, taxation, etc. Paragraph 3B was somewhat more categorical since by its adoption the Trusteeship Council would itself take the decision on the policy of subsidies to educational establishments.

7. He hoped that the Council might be able to vote on those two paragraphs without too detailed and too