Note by the Secretariat: The Secretary-General has the honour to transmit to the members of the Trusteeship Council the following observations received on 23 June 1952 from the Government of the United Kingdom. These observations relate to the following petitions:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Petition from Mr. A.K. Ikom (T/PET.4/78)</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Petition from Mr. A.K. Ikom (T/PET.4/78)</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>Petition from the Kamerun United National Congress (T/PET.4/79 - T/PET.5/105)</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
(1) PETITION FROM MR. A.K. IKOMI (T/FIT.4/78)

1. The petitioner, Mr. A.K. Ikomi, refers to the piece of land shown on the attached plan of which he alleges he was in rightful occupation up to the year 1940 when portions of it were taken over for use as a site for a military parade ground and officer's bungalow. He claims:
   (a) That he should be paid further compensation for the areas shown as 4 and 5 on the plan, and
   (b) That the remaining areas, marked 2 and 3, should be returned to him.

2. In regard to the first of these claims the statement in paragraph 3 of the petition is correct: the petitioner's right of occupancy of portions 4 and 5 of the land (as shown on the plan) was revoked under the provisions of Section 12 (c) of Chapter 105 Laws of Nigeria (Land and Native Rights Ordinance) which reads as follows:

   "It shall not be lawful for the Governor to revoke a right of occupancy granted as aforesaid save for good cause. 'Good cause' shall include:
   (c) requirement of the land by the Government for public purposes;"

3. Under the provisions of Section 14(2) of Chapter 105, the occupant of land whose right of occupancy has been revoked owing to the requirement of the land by the Government for public purposes "shall be entitled to compensation for the value at the date of revocation of his unexhausted improvements and for the inconvenience caused by his disturbance". This compensation was assessed at the time at F5, as stated by petitioner, this assessment being approved after careful consideration by the Chief Commissioner acting on behalf of the Governor. Petitioner, on his own admission, accepted this amount without comment and it was not until 12 November 1949, nine years after the revocation order, that he raised any objection to the amount awarded. It is considered, therefore, that he has forfeited any claim to additional compensation in respect of these portions.

1/ Note by the Secretariat: The plan referred to has been placed in the files of the Secretariat and is available to the members of the Trusteeship Council on request.

/4. No action
4. No action was ever taken by Government to obtain possession of the remaining portions of petitioner's land (marked 2 and 3 on the plan) and the assumption mentioned in the first sentence of paragraph 5 had no basis of fact. From his statement in paragraph 3 of the petition, petitioner appears to have been well aware of this, but in order to resolve any doubts which he may still harbour on this point the Senior District Officer, Victoria, has informed him of the position and has made clear to him the fact that his right of occupancy of these areas has not been interfered with by Government. If, as he claims, these portions have been used by members of the police or military such action must have been taken by individuals on their own initiative and petitioner was always in a position to protect his interests by a report to the officer-in-charge or, in the last event, by recourse to the courts.
(2) PETITION FROM THE KAMERUN UNITED NATIONAL CONGRESS
(T/10T.4/79 - T/10T.5/105) 1/

5. The Kamerun United National Congress was founded in 1951 and has held some meetings in the British Cameroons. In its petitions it has set out its declared aims as follows:
   (a) The eventual unification of the Cameroons under United Kingdom Trusteeship and the Cameroons under French Trusteeship.
   (b) Furthering this:
      (i) The abolition of the frontier between the two Trust Territories, including the formation of a Customs Union between them.
      (ii) The conversion of the Cameroons under United Kingdom Trusteeship into a separate Region, directly responsible to the Trusteeship Council through the Governor of Nigeric, and the Establishment of a House of Representatives in the Cameroons under French Trusteeship with full legislative and executive powers and independent of the French Legislature.

6. These petitions deal with matters affecting both the Cameroons under United Kingdom Trusteeship and the Cameroons under French Trusteeship. The two Administering Authorities have therefore considered the proposals of the petitioners in consultation together. The following observations are primarily concerned with the consideration of those proposals as they affect the Cameroons under United Kingdom Trusteeship and should be read together with the observations of the French Government on these petitions.

7. The petitioners have proposed far-reaching changes in the administration of the Cameroons under United Kingdom Trusteeship as part of their plan for achieving their declared eventual aim of unification, which they appreciate is not an aim which can be realized except in the distant future. The Administering Authority does not consider that it would be proper to make any comment on

1/ Note by the Secretariat: See also T/1009.
the desirability or feasibility of this aim. The aims of the
Trusteeship System are to lead Trust Territories to self-government or
independence, and it is clearly for the peoples of the Cameroons under
United Kingdom Trusteeship, when that objective has been reached, to
decide for themselves under what political organization they wish to
live in the light of their own needs and capabilities.
8. Until then the Administering Authority will continue to administer
the Trust Territory in strict accord with the Trusteeship Agreement, so
that the aims of the Trusteeship System may be achieved.
9. In the British Cameroons careful measures have been adopted to
preserve the identity of the Trust Territory and constitutional
machinery has already been introduced which will make it easy for the
people of the Territory as a whole freely to express their wishes
when the appropriate time comes. Meanwhile it is necessary to observe
that, at present, few of the inhabitants of the British Cameroons
share the enthusiasm of the petitioners for unification, and the
movement appears therefore to be unrepresentative in scope.
10. On the question of the frontier trade, there is already a very
large range of concessions in respect of frontier trade between the
Cameroons under United Kingdom Trusteeship and the Cameroons under
French Trusteeship. Cattle hides, sheepskins, goatskins, palm kernels,
palm kernel oil and palm oil exported direct across the British
Cameroons frontier into the French Cameroons are exempt from export
duty. African foodstuffs, including such items as groundnuts and
groundnut oil, may be exported across the land frontier from the
British Cameroons into the French Cameroons free of duty provided
that these foodstuffs do not exceed a quantity which the carrier may
be expected to require for his own personal use. The importation of
African foodstuffs produced in any territory adjoining Nigeria
including, of course, the French Cameroons, and imported into Nigeria
are exempt from import duty. The only goods of any importance in
respect of which customs duties are payable are alcohol, tobacco,
imported textiles and kerosene.
11. All persons entering the Cameroons under United Kingdom Trusteeship from the French Cameroons are required to possess a travel document, but there is no evidence whatsoever that this requirement causes any difficulty in the movement of peoples between the two Territories. The only area where immigration from the French Cameroons is on a significant scale is in the Victoria Division to which a considerable number of men from the French Cameroons go for temporary employment in the Cameroons Development Corporation Plantations. The Corporation in 1951 was employing 2,671 men from the French Cameroons. The movement of people across the border is in fact as free as possible, and the extensive and frequent contacts between the peoples of the two Territories are evidence of this.

12. The special political status of the Cameroons under United Kingdom Trusteeship is, of course, preserved by the Trusteeship Agreement. This agreement ensures, inter alia, that an annual report on the Territory is submitted to the General Assembly, that inhabitants of the Territory may address petitions to the Trusteeship Council and that the Council may send periodic visiting missions to the Territory. In all these reports the Territory is sharply distinguished from a Non-Self-Governing Territory not under Trusteeship, such as Nigeria. Moreover, the effect of the Administrative Union between Nigeria and the Cameroons on the integrity of the Trust Territory is kept under constant surveillance by the Trusteeship Council Sterling Committee on Administrative Unions.

13. Article 5(a) of the Trusteeship Agreement for the Territory states that the Administering Authority shall administer it in accordance with the Authority’s own laws as an integral part of its territory. As a result of this provision, while the position of the Trust Territories as a corporate entity has been preserved, it has enjoyed and is enjoying solid advantages through its close association with Nigeria. Some of these advantages are set out below:

(1) Financial. For many years Nigeria has subsidized the Cameroons. This was true always before the Second World War and was true after that War until 1949/50. The
financial results for the post-war period are as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Revenues</th>
<th>Expenditure</th>
<th>Surplus or Deficit</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1944/5</td>
<td>167</td>
<td>305</td>
<td>- 138</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1945/6</td>
<td>183</td>
<td>332</td>
<td>- 149</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1946/7</td>
<td>241</td>
<td>477</td>
<td>- 236</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1947/8</td>
<td>261</td>
<td>543</td>
<td>- 280</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1943/5</td>
<td>513</td>
<td>647</td>
<td>- 134</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1949/50</td>
<td>1,106</td>
<td>880</td>
<td>plus 226</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1950/51</td>
<td>1,202</td>
<td>528</td>
<td>plus 674</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3,719</td>
<td>4,174</td>
<td>- 455</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For the years 1949/50 and 1950/51 (1951/52 results are not yet available) the Territory has had a considerable surplus. The Nigerian Government has not under integration laid hands on this surplus and put it against the over-all deficit of past years, but made arrangements by which all the surplus will be placed in a Cameroons Development Fund to be used exclusively in the Cameroons.

(ii) Services provided by Nigeria. Inhabitants of the Territory are able to avail themselves of a wide variety of services that do not exist in the Territory. A boy or girl from the Cameroons is eligible for entry, for instance, to University College, Ibadan, or for scholarships there or to universities overseas on exactly the same terms as a Nigerian. The farmer or cattle owner looks for technical advice on the control of diseases to Nigerian services and for the marketing of his produce or herds to Nigerian organizations and the free access to Nigerian markets secured under integration.

(iii) Stimulus provided by Nigeria. Next, on the political side, the Territory's association with Nigeria with its rapid advances in constitutional progress and local government, its active press, and its eager political interest at all levels is a constant stimulus to the Territory which might otherwise tend to stagnate. This stimulus cannot but assist
the Territory to make greater progress towards the goal of self-government or independence prescribed for it under Article 76 of the Charter.

(iv) Territory's representation under the new Constitution. A good illustration of this stimulus is given by the tremendous advances made in the Territory through its participation in the new Constitution. The advanced principle of election by adult suffrage was introduced at a bound in a Territory where it was in many parts unfamiliar. The Gwoza hill pagans, for instance, who only two years ago spent several months in inter-village battles, now find themselves given the responsibility of voting in primary elections. They took advantage of their new privileges, and some 50 per cent votes, a percentage incidentally much higher than in many parts of the much more developed Southern Cameroons. Then the new Constitution at a different level has laid heavy new responsibilities on those selected from the Territory to represent them in the Regional Legislatures and Executives and at the Centre. In the formation of this Constitution representatives of the Territory were consulted at all levels and the upshot has been that the Territory has been given greater representation than ever before. There are thirteen elected members and one official member from the Territory in the Eastern House of Assembly; one Minister from the Territory and one official member on the Eastern Regional Executive Council; one member from the Territory in the Northern House of Chiefs and three others in the Northern House of Assembly; one Minister without Portfolio on the Central Council of Ministers and eight members from the Territory in the Central House of Representatives.

14. It will then be seen that the political education of the people in the Territory is being vigorously pursued and that new and great responsibilities have been laid upon their political leaders. It
would be impracticable to accept the petitioners' suggestion that a
time-limit should be set to this process of political education for
self-government or independence, but it is quite clear from the
record of recent political development in West Africa as a whole
that progress will continue at the fastest practicable rate.

15. Mention must be made here of the petitioners' passing remarks
on the bottom of page 20, paragraph 14, that, "The enlightened
elements in the Kamerun under British administration have repeatedly
requested the introduction of Local Government Reform, but,
unfortunately no action has as yet been taken". This assertion is
completely incorrect. The facts are that when in 1949 a Commission
of the Eastern House of Assembly visited the Southern Cameroons to
urge local government reform, the representatives of the Southern
Cameroons people refused even to discuss the question. It was
decided, therefore, to introduce new local government councils in
other areas outside the Territory which had shown a more
favourable reaction, but reforms will be introduced in the Trust
Territory as soon as possible. Progress in 1951 is described in
paragraph 178 onwards of the 1951 Cameroons Reports.

16. The inhabitants of the Cameroons under United Kingdom
Trusteeship enjoy all the freedoms referred to as the 1949 Visiting
Mission reported.

17. The desirability of making the Cameroons a separate region was
most carefully considered in connexion with the introduction of the
new Constitution. The position was fully described in paragraphs 114
to 116 and in paragraph 119 of the 1949 Cameroons Report which are
reproduced as an annexure to these Observations.¹

18. Since that Report was written, the new Constitution has been
introduced and full representation for the Territory ensured at all
levels as summarized in paragraph 13(iv) above. More details are
given in paragraphs 116 onwards in the 1951 Cameroons Report. There
are certain inaccuracies in this section of the petition which should
be corrected here:

¹/ Note by the Secretariat: The above-mentioned annexure was not received
by the Secretariat.
The financial position of the Territory is inadequately described in page 12. Details are given in paragraph 13 above.

The Territory's timber resources are already being used to the advantage of the people of the Territory and, as is mentioned in paragraph 386 of the 1951 Report, the total value of forest timber produced was over £42,000, over twice the value of the previous year. As is explained in paragraph 388 of the 1951 Report, mineral resources so far located in the Territory are not of economic value.

The difficulties caused in the Territory by the non-existence of any single language which is generally spoken have been described in paragraph 711 of the 1951 Report. English is in use throughout the primary school system and there would be some practical difficulties in adding French as a second compulsory language in the Cameroons under United Kingdom Trusteeship. There already exist, however, many close and continuously developing links between the two Territories in the cultural and educational fields. In particular the educational authorities of the Territories meet from time to time and, as part of the fulfilment of the obligations of the Administering Authorities to bring the peoples of the Territories to a state in which they can play their full part in the cultural life of the modern world, the two Administering Authorities have kept and will continue to keep under active consideration measures for strengthening those links. The precise form which these measures could take is largely a technical question but it is one that the two Administering Authorities consider important and they will continue to study it.

The following observations are made on points of detail in paragraph 4 of the petition and elsewhere:

(1) the question on page 8 of T/ITT.4/79 were all asked by
the representative of the Philippines. The answers are given on page 3 of Trusteeship Council paper T/251 of 8 February 1949, and in Sir Alan Burns' statement on pages 71 to 75 of T/PV.132 of 14 February, 1949.

(2) Page 17. The number of petitions received by the Visiting Missions during its visit was not large in comparison with those received from other Territories. The list is given on pages 40 to 41 of the Visiting Mission's Report published as Supplement No. 2 (T/798) in the Official Records of the seventh session of the Trusteeship Council.

(3) Pages 17 - 18. Conditional Sales. The Nigerian Government is, of course, opposed to this practice which is, however, extremely difficult to control without the full co-operation not merely of traders but of the whole community. The Administering Authority would, of course, ensure that any specific cases brought to its notice by the petitioners were investigated.

(4) Page 20. The general development of the Trust Territory has already been described in Annual Reports and in the statements of special representatives before the Council. The aim of the Reports and of the special representatives' statements is to give an objective account of the results so far received and the shortcomings which remain to be remedied. On any fair assessment it would appear that there has been considerable progress in political, economic, social and educational advancement since the visit of the last Visiting Mission in 1949.

21. The Administering Authority considers therefore that the policy it has been pursuing with the full approval of the Trusteeship Council in implementation of the Trusteeship Agreements is the only one which can satisfactorily meet the fundamental needs of the inhabitants. It would regard the proposals put forward for immediate adoption by the K.U.N.C. as being impracticable and it considers that it would be unwise to attempt to prejudice at this state the future course of political development in the Trust Territory. The Administering Authority is confident that the continuation of its present policies gives the inhabitants of the Territory the opportunity of freely deciding their own future at the appropriate time and that it would be a grave mistake to take any action which would remove this freedom of choice.