CONDITIONS IN THE TRUST TERRITORIES UNDER FRENCH ADMINISTRATION

Memorandum submitted by the French Government concerning the observations of UNESCO (T/1012)

Note by the Secretary-General: The Secretary-General has the honour to transmit to the members of the Council the following letter, dated 14 October 1952, which he has received from the French Mission to the United Nations.

The attention of the French authorities has been drawn to document T/1012, dated 17 June 1952, containing the observations of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization on the reports on the administration of certain Trust Territories during 1951.

The French authorities have the following comments to make on the second paragraph of the section entitled "Organization" (French Togoland) on page 12 of the document:

(1) The number of pupils who obtained the primary school certificate should be compared, not to the number of primary school pupils, but to the number of candidates.

(2) The high proportion of failures in the entrance examination for secondary schools is due to the fact that the only requirement for prospective candidates is one of age, so that the very large number of candidates is out of all proportion to the number of pupils fitted for secondary education.

(3) The number of successful candidates for the baccalauréat (B.E.), the baccalauréat d'études du premier cycle (B.E.P.C.) and the Baccalauréat may seem small, but is quite respectable in view of the small number of candidates.

The following conclusion may be drawn from these comments:

The absolute number of successful candidates in the examinations is still low, because the classes with the largest number of pupils are not the
examination classes. This situation is obviously only temporary and is improving year by year. Already in 1932, 1,252 out of the 2,789 candidates (i.e. 41 per cent) passed the primary school certificate, 65 out of the 132 candidates (i.e. 49 per cent) passed the B.E. and the B.E.P.C., and 11 out of the 37 candidates (i.e. 29 per cent) passed the Baccalauréat. The elimination of candidates in the entrance examination to secondary schools may seem severe (80 per cent), but that is because the only requirement for prospective candidates is one of age, so that a great many candidates present themselves and a very large proportion of them have not the necessary educational qualifications for such an examination.