

# AFRICA - U.N. BULLETIN

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CRISIS IN TUNISIA Two disputes in Africa caused the Security Council to call a special session this February. The first arose out of the French air raid on the Tunisian border village of Sakiet-Sidi-Youssef, which the French military claimed was an Algerian guerilla center. Called into session at the request of Tunisia, the Security Council postponed consideration of this action (and the French cognate question of Tunisian assistance to Algerian rebels) as both countries accepted American and British offers of good offices. However, it is doubtful whether the problems of French-Tunisian relations can be permanently resolved until the future of Algeria is satisfactorily settled, in or out of the UN

SUDANESE-EGYPTIAN BORDER DISPUTE The second problem brought to the attention of the Security Council involves the border dispute between Egypt and the Sudan as to the three disputed areas created by relatively small jogs on the twenty-second parallel which generally divides the two countries. These three areas which may contain valuable mineral deposits, have long been the subject of disagreement between the two countries; but differences became so acute when the Egyptians indicated that they intended to conduct their plebiscite on the future of the United Arab Republic in the disputed areas just a week before Sudanese general elections were scheduled. (Sudanese relations with Egypt were expected to be an issue in such elections). As in the case of the Tunisian dispute, the Security Council postponed consideration of the problem when the two countries agreed to maintain the status quo, at least for the time being.

TRUSTEESHIP COUNCIL: FUNCTIONS The UN Trusteeship Council opened its 21st session on January 30 this year. The Council consists of 14 members, representatives of the seven "administering powers" (countries which administer trust territories) and of seven elected "non-administering powers." Its functions include both annual recurring ones—examination of reports of administering powers on the trust territories under their jurisdictions, examination of petitions concerning trust territories, consideration of the report of the UN visiting mission to the group of trust territories visited in the past year, and the preparation for the next tour of the visiting mission—and also special ones, which differ according to events and to the directions of each session of the General Assembly.

REPORT ON TANGANYIKA The Trusteeship Council's visiting mission visited East African trust territories, including Tanganyika, in 1957. So in considering the British report on the territory the Council had before it not only points raised by other UN organs (notably UNESCO and WHO) and by petitioners, but also by the mission. The following summarize some main points in the draft report to be presented by the Council to the General Assembly next fall.

Political conditions: The so-called "multi-racial" institutions of government (by which very unequal numbers of Africans, Asians, and Europeans have numerically equal representation), which the British say will lead eventually to non-

racial representation, is bitterly opposed by the most politically aware Africans. The chief political opposition, furnished by the Tanganyika African National Union (TANU), is sporadically banned in certain localities by the administering authority.

Economic conditions: Economic development is held back by the fact that most of the country's labor goes into subsistence farming conducted by still very primitive methods. Progress is very erratic.

Social conditions: The advancement of women from an inferior status needs more encouragement. A vigorous and healthy labor movement has developed. Health services are being improved, although slowly (tuberculosis is becoming a serious problem), and high costs have caused the administering authority perhaps to over-emphasize curative medicine rather than preventive.

Education: The British are again urged as soon as possible to end the separation of schools into four racial groups and to start teaching English in all primary schools. The Council questioned the decision to divide education into three four-year blocks instead of two six-year blocks and distinctly disapproved the increase in fees for education. It deplored the continued lack of any educational facilities beyond high school in the Territory and urged increased emphasis on scholarships for college training elsewhere.

REPORT ON RUANDA-URUNDI: A CHANGING SOCIAL AND POLITICAL ORDER The 1957 mission also visited

Ruanda-Urundi, the two former German colonies located between the Congo and Tanganyika and administered by Belgium. The most interesting material in the report on this double trust territory concerns the changing relations between the two indigenous peoples who have lived for many centuries in a relatively stable feudal ("symbolic") society: the Bahutsi (Watutsi) and the Bahutu. The former, constituting only about fifteen percent of the population are described as Hamitic in origin, a "master race" of some political sophistication, for whom the more numerous Bahutus (and a few Batwas, a tiny pygmoid group) worked as virtual serfs, tied to the land. The Bahutu are now beginning to awaken to the twentieth century and ask for changes which will give them a fair share in the government of the two territories (administered by the Belgians through two kings, called Bami, and High Councils of State).

The report of the visiting mission includes two fascinating appendices, one a "Bahutu Manifesto," directed primarily at the racial problem. The second is a Statement of Views of the High Council of State of Ruanda, devoted to preparing the territory for self-government. While recognizing a vast debt to the Belgians and the likelihood of future association with Belgium in some form, it asks for better and speedier preparation for self-government and it does not hesitate to criticize the administering country for prohibiting the use of state funds for study abroad and for the absence of a native university. It also states candidly as to the future that "so far the Congo has no political, social, or cultural attraction which would induce us to join a federal system of which it was the preponderant part."

D'ORSINVILLE LEAVES FOR FRENCH TOGOLAND Max d'Orsinville of Haiti left New York the middle of February to head a staff of 30 who will, on behalf of the UN, supervise the general elections in French Togoland this spring.

BRITISH AND FRENCH CAMEROONS: WILL THEY FOLLOW THE PATTERN OF THE TOGOLANDS?

The British and French Cameroons trust territories pose many problems for the United Nations generally and for its Trusteeship Council, not the least of which is caused by the extraordinary number of petitions which continually pour from its inhabitants in such profusion that all the normal methods of handling them have

broken down. According to a report prepared by the Secretariat, 6,443 petitions concerning one or both territories were before the Council at the beginning of its present session. By and large such petitions have been analyzed and classified as to general type, and most fall into one of several categories: requests for unification and independence of the Cameroons; requests for political amnesty, particularly for the banned Union des Populations du Cameroon (UPC) and its leaders; statements of compensation due for property damage committed by French soldiers or officials in alleged raids or attacks on particular villages and districts; pleas to prevent further illegal arrests, tortures, deportations, etc., along with requests to restore and compensate those who are presently in jail or exile or who have suffered from such treatment. These petitions give life to some of the comments made in the Council's draft report on the Cameroons, but lead to an appreciation of the short-comings as well.

The key problem which is constantly before the Cameroonians themselves is whether events, and the administering powers, are conspiring to lead the Cameroons in the same path as the Togolands, which in certain circumstances they so closely resemble: When the British government asked the UN to terminate the trusteeship agreement covering British Togoland and allow it to join Ghana when that state became independent, there were strong objections from certain Togolese, particularly representatives of the Ewes, tribesmen living on both Togolands who wanted to be reunited in a single state; and some UN members expressed reservations about proceeding so precipitously. At the time, however, the French West African territories appeared to be so far behind the British politically that a united Togo state seemed completely visionary; therefore, immediate independence for one-half of Togoland in a union to which the Ewes presented the only serious objection appeared the only realistic course.

In the meantime, however, the French have (despite doubts as to their motives and the thorough-goingness of their reforms) greatly transformed the regime of their colonial and trust territories in Africa and granted large amounts of self-government to such areas. The primary reason for approving the union of British Togoland with Ghana, that it was the only method of giving self-government to the people of the trust territory for many years, will not apply to British Cameroons when Nigeria is given its independence (as is anticipated) in the next few years.

However, there is considerable evidence that the British and French would like to split the Cameroons permanently along the present frontier, with a British Commonwealth country absorbing the British territory while the French trust territory joins the French Union. The British representative on the Trusteeship Council, Sir Andrew Cohen, made this obvious in indicating that it might soon be appropriate to determine, by popular referendum, whether the British Cameroons preferred to confederate with an independent Nigeria or remain under trusteeship. For prestige reasons (particularly because of the natural comparison with Ghana) Nigerians desire such an arrangement and are equipped to handle the administrative problems since the British Cameroons are now administered through Nigeria, with the northern section (which differs in many ways from the south) treated as part of the northern province of Nigeria while the south is administered as a separate province or administrative region, a scheme which could be carried over in case of confederation.

Prince Alexandre Douala Manga Bell, a member of the Douala tribe of southern French Cameroons and a member of the French National Assembly, appeared before the Trusteeship Council during the consideration of the report of the Cameroons to urge unification of the two territories. Stating that the UN was the only forum from which he could address both the British and French governments, he presented his requests for substantially the same objectives sought by the banned UPC and the legal One Kamerun party. He suggested a plebiscite, to be held when the visiting mission visits the territories next fall, which would allow the inhabitants to vote on their future status, permitting them to opt for unification. Addressing himself

to the reforms made by the French, he stated that he felt that the French government would grant full independence when the Cameroons demanded it, but he wished to prevent the British from foreclosing such a request by absorbing their Cameroons territory into Nigeria. Admitting that the Cameroons was not an historical entity, but a cluster of warring tribes, before the advent of Western intervention, he indicated that the colonial governments had brought a sense of unity and peace to the peoples of the area who now wish to bring these to fruition in their own unified state.

The actions of the UN during the next few months and years will determine whether the drive for unification and independence can succeed against the colonialist aspirations to preserve the present pattern of separation and outside domination.

UNITED NATIONS AID TO AFRICA: UNICEF Various UN agencies, particularly WHO, FAO, and UNICEF, are engaged in various facets of a gigantic program to assist the underdeveloped countries of the world, especially those in Africa. The primary emphasis of these programs today is on the eradication of control or control of various epidemic and endemic diseases, improvement of maternity and child care, improvement of public sanitation, and improvement of agriculture.

In a report on its activities, UNICEF stated that it has worked out pilot malaria eradication programs in East Africa and the nearby islands. In tropical Africa it has not been possible technically to move from control to eradication, but infant mortality and morbidity rates are down. UNICEF intends to allocate \$7,200 to Ghana, \$200,000 to Zanzibar, and \$13,000 to Ethiopia for various anti-malaria projects, some under the technical direction of WHO.

Reports on the control and eradication of leprosy are more hopeful, and UNICEF states that mass treatment of the disease has been begun almost everywhere and that at least 100,000 children have been saved from that terrible sickness and death through its assistance. \$82,000 has been awarded for leprosy control in Uganda.

Sizeable advances have been made in the eradication of yaws. In Bechuanaland and West Africa over 6,500,000 people have been examined and approximately half of them treated for yaws. UNICEF recommends the allocation of \$226,000 to the Federation of French Equatorial Africa for its yaws campaign. It also recommends a grant of \$77,000 to Morocco for a three-year campaign against syphilis.

In the field of preventive medicine, UNICEF is helping to improve maternal and child health and welfare in a number of different ways, depending upon the educational level, culture, and customs of the people of the area, and in particular upon the degree to which the mother of the family is responsible for its care and health. Generally, programs are designed to teach women healthful child care, to acquaint them with the causes of disease, and to teach them how to feed children more nutritious meals. UNICEF recommends the following sums for such projects: \$43,500 to Uganda, \$33,000 to Somalia, \$18,000 to Eritrea, \$28,000 to Gambia, and \$70,000 to Senegal. In addition, the program to control trachoma and related eye diseases in children continues in Tunisia.

N-G-O CONFERENCE ON INFORMATION ON HUMAN RIGHTS In February the UN sponsored a non-governmental organizations (N-G-O's) conference on information on human rights; 467 people attended from 156 organizations. In his address, Benjamin Cohen, Under Secretary for Trusteeship and Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories, said that one-quarter of the world's population has acquired self-rule since the creation of the UN. He urged n-g-o's to attend meeting of the Trusteeship Council and Committee on Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories, where practical applications of basic human rights are constantly being made, and he indicated that these applications continually affect Africa.