Now, as a number of representatives pointed out yesterday, the question of the Cameroons is to be a specific item on the agenda of the next session of the Trusteeship Council. Furthermore, as suggested by the French Delegation, there were, in the four petitions from the Cameroons which were dealt with yesterday, a number of obvious features which would have made their prior examination by the Trusteeship Council a very desirable step. It was these considerations that led the Canadian Delegation to vote against the granting of all four petitions from the Cameroons.

Apart from the bearing of the above considerations on the votes of my delegation, yesterday, I should like, in conclusion, to make one further observation.

Canada's votes, as I have suggested, were determined by reference to our own set of criteria. In the same way no doubt every other delegation was guided by adherence to its own criteria. Perhaps we would agree that these principles by which we are guided are more worthy of consideration certainly in the long run - than the votes we cast on specific issues. Thus it may have become more clear to others, as it did to my delegation, that we do stand in need of a commonly accepted set of criteria to which from time to time the Committee as a whole may appeal in coming to a decision on specific requests. It was a matter of regret to the Canadian Delegation that the initiative of the distinguished delegate of the Dominican Republic in attempting last year to establish such a set of criteria did not have more tangible results. The United Kingdom proposal now offers the the Committee a new opportunity to make progress in the right direction. It is the hope of my delegation that this time the Committee will not fail to use this opportunity to good purpose.

Note: The following resolution was introduced by the United Kingdom as a proposed means of saving the Committee's time and developing a system of handling oral petitions in a more orderly and efficient manner. This proposal was warmly welcomed by the Canadian Delegation as was a similar proposal put forward by the Dominican Republic at the 7th session of the General Assembly.

Draft Resolution Proposed by United Kingdom

The Fourth Committee.

Decides to establish a sub-committee consisting of eight members, of whom four shall be members of the Trusteeship Council, two administering and two non-administering, to make recommendations regarding the procedure to be followed by the Fourth Committee in considering applications for hearings from petitioners in respect of the affairs of trust territories, including the considerations to be taken into account by the Fourth Committee in reaching decisions on individual cases.

Text ends.

Despite the willingness of the United Kingdom to modify its proposal to meet some of the objections raised this resolution was defeated by a narrow vote of 22 in favour (including Canada), 23 against, and 12 abstentions. Most of the negative votes were cast on the grounds that the proposal constituted an attempt to curtail the rights of petitioners for oral hearings. As the situation remains, the