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PETITION FROM THE ASSOCIATION OF KAMERUNIAN STUDENTS
CONCERNING THE CAMEROONS UNDER FRENCH ADMINISTRATION

(Circulated in accordance with rule 85 of the
rules of procedure of the Trusteeship Council)

Considering that Kamerun is not a French colony but a Territory under
United Nations trusteeship, provisionally placed under French administration
by the United Nations,

Considering that Article 76 of the United Nations Charter stipulates that:

"The basic objectives of the trusteeship system shall be:

"(a) ...

"(b) to promote the political, economic, social and educational
advancement of the inhabitants of the Trust Territories, and their
progressive development towards self-government or independence as may
be appropriate to the particular circumstances of each Territory and
its peoples and the freely expressed wishes of the peoples concerned ... "

Considering that highly qualified Kamerunian political bodies and the whole
Kamerunian people have never ceased to give emphatic voice to the desire of the
Kamerunians to achieve the unification and independence of their country.

Considering that the French Government continues to stifle the legitimate
aspirations of the Kamerunian people, as the following facts, among others,
attest:

Massacres of September 1945,

Massacres of May 1955,

Illegal dissolution of the Kamerunian nationalist organizations by the Decree
of 13 July 1955,

Attempts, by means of the loi-cadre for the Overseas Territories, to integrate
Kamerun into the French colonial empire,

Bogus elections of 23 December 1956 in an atmosphere of confusion, terror and
military repression, while the movements which are by far the most
representative are still prohibited.

THE ASSOCIATION OF KAMERUNIAN STUDENTS:

1. Once again stigmatizes this dishonest policy and indignantly denounces the state of siege imposed on Kamerun under French administration since 18 December 1956.

The Press of 2 January 1957 reports that police operations caused twenty deaths on the day of 31 December 1956 alone. The Press likewise states that the information reaching it is "screened" (Le Monde of 3 January 1957).

But from information gathered from other sources we learn that in reality things are even worse.

Troops have been stationed in all parts of the Territory, especially in the Sanaga-Maritime region, where the population unanimously opposed the elections held in pursuance of the DEFFERRE loi-cadre. On 20 December 1956, 200 parachutists from the Douar base were dropped on ESEKA. Since then thousands of parachutists arrive day after day to massacre the defenceless inhabitants of the locality. Troops led by officers and non-commissioned officers range through the forests of the region on the pretext that they are looking for Mr. Ruben Um Nyobe, the General Secretary of the UPC. There is a veritable state of siege in the region. Pitiless gunfire causes hundreds of deaths daily and since 20 December numbers of persons have disappeared. All that, followed by deportations to unknown destinations. On 27 December alone at least eighty deaths were reported. Women and children are pitilessly massacred ...

2. Reaffirms the position it took at its last Congress in favour of immediate Unification and Independence. Recalls its declaration that the elections held in Kamerun on 25 December 1956, pursuant to the loi-cadre for the Overseas Territories (see attached text), are null and void,

3. Urgently appeals to international opinion to see that this reign of terror is brought to an end and that the aspirations of the people for immediate Reunification and Independence are respected and satisfied.

4. Asks the United Nations to send a special mission to Kamerun to investigate the real situation in the country.

Done in Paris, 2 January 1957
For the Association of Kamerunian Students:
François Sengat-Kuo, President.