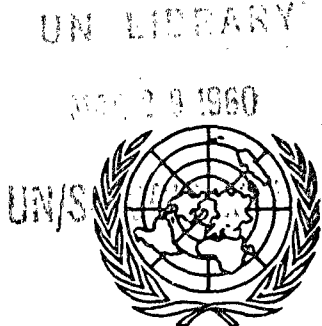


UNITED NATIONS
TRUSTEESHIP
COUNCIL



Distr.
GENERAL

T/OBS.4/75
28 March 1960

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

PETITIONS CONCERNING THE CAMEROONS UNDER
UNITED KINGDOM ADMINISTRATION

Observations of the Government of the United Kingdom
as Administering Authority

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1. Petition from One Kamerun in Tiko (T/PET.4/191):

It is true that the members of the Victoria Native Authority Tax Assessment Committee visited the One Kamerun office at Tiko for the purpose of checking on the incomes of the persons employed there with a view to assessing them for tax. This was in pursuance of their normal duties. The persons they sought to assess were unwilling to give the information to which the Committee was entitled and there is no doubt that both sides allowed themselves to get ruffled and that a lively altercation took place. The allegation that the office correspondence was interfered with is denied by the Assessment Committee and has not been substantiated by the petitioners.

A tax demand on the known income of individuals is issued at the beginning of the tax year and a further demand later in the year in those cases where investigation has shown that the tax payer's income is greater than that upon which he was originally assessed. The tax payer has a right of appeal against the assessment. If a tax payer neglects or refuses to give information on which a proper assessment can be made he may be arbitrarily assessed and the onus is then on him to prove that he has been overassessed. In the cases mentioned in the petition, Mr. Epeye Bulu Yoko was originally assessed to pay the flat rate of tax at £1. 10s. 0d. He gave no particulars of his income when called upon to do so and was assessed to pay £6. 11s. 3d. on an income of £320 p.a. He did not appeal.

Alphonse Njomo was originally assessed to pay £2. 5s. Od. on an income of £120 p.a. Later this was revised to £5. 16s. 3d. on an income of £310. He lodged an appeal but it was out of time and was not heard. Bufok Ofan John was assessed to pay £2. 5s. Od. on an income of £120 p.a. He lodged no appeal.

Although the Assessment Committee were within the law in imposing additional assessments on Epeye Bulu Yoko and Alphonse Njomo on the grounds that they failed to give adequate information when called upon to do so, it appeared to the District Officer, Victoria, that their action had been coloured by the altercation that took place in the office. He therefore exercised the powers vested in him under the law to remit the additional assessments.

2. Petition from Mr. Prosper Djété (T/PET.4 and 5/58):

Only the fourth paragraph of this petition concerns the Cameroons under British Administration. At no time have members of the One Kamerun Party been arrested as such, nor have French Cameroonians residing in the Bamenda area been repatriated as alleged. During 1959, six persons believed to be associated with political party in question were charged with criminal offences and convicted - one for indecently interfering with human remains; one for entering the territory illegally, being a procurer of girls for the purposes of prostitution; and three for being disorderly persons and going armed so as to cause fear. Two persons, who, being prohibited immigrants, had entered the territory illegally were expelled; they were escorted to the border and released.

It is not true that members of the gendarmerie of the French Cameroons have arrested persons in British territory and taken them to the French zone. Nor is there any truth in the allegation that two persons have been killed and others shot in the legs: there has been no occasion in the Bamenda area when the police have used firearms.
