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PETITIONS CONCERNING THE CAMEROONS UNDER FRENCH ADMINISTRATION

Observations of the French Government as Administering Authority

Note by the Secretariat: The observations relate to the following petitions:

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1. Petition from the Executive Committee of the Jeunesse Démocratique du Cameroun (T/PET.5/598)

1. The statements regarding the destruction of the dwelling of Mpaye Hyacinthe on 22 May 1955 are completely false.

2. A meeting of the UPC was held on 22 May between 3.15 and 5.30 p.m. in the Koumassi quarter of Douala on the subject of the incidents which had just taken place at Mbanga (see the observations on petition T/PET.5/635). Mpaye Hyacinthe spoke at that meeting.

3. At the same time the first meeting of the Front National Camerounais was taking place at the house of Mbock Vicent. After 5.30 p.m., when the UPC meeting at Koumassi was over, a group of UPC members, Mpaye Hyacinthe among them, made an attack upon the Front National meeting (see the observations on petition T/PET.5/635).

2. Petition from the Association of Cameroonian Students, Branch of Toulouse (T/PET.5/640)
Petition from the Local Committee of the Union des Populations du Cameroun of Kolla-Mandouka (T/PET.5/650)
Petition from the Central Committee of the Union des Populations du Cameroun of Boumnyebel (T/PET.5/651)
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Petition from Messrs. Simon Monetyam and David Ngan (T/PET.5/675)
Petition from the General Secretary of the Kamerun National Congress (T/PET.5/682)
Petition from the Central Committee of the Union des Populations du Cameroun of Manjo (T/PET.5/686)
Petition from Mr. Ndongassanama (T/PET.5/695)

The events mentioned in these petitions are connected with the incidents which took place in the Territory at the end of May 1955.

The Administering Authority has already submitted its observations on these matters in reply to petition T/PET.5/635.

3. Petition from nine notables of Bangangte (T/PET.5/704)

Petition from the Ligue Progressiste des Intérêts Economiques et Sociaux des Populations du Nord-Cameroun (Pronord) (T/PET.5/705)

Petition from the Ewondos of the Southern part of the M'Balmayo Subdivision (T/PET.5/706)

Petition from the Administrative Council of the Union des Syndicats autonomes du Cameroun (T/PET.5/710)

Petition from the General Secretary of the Force-Ouvrière (T/PET.5/711)

Petition from the Wouri Branch of the Unité Camerounaise (T/PET.5/721)

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Petition from Mr. Joseph-René Binet Lavenir (T/PET.5/755)

Petition from the Headquarters of the Front National Camerounais (T/PET.5/799)

Petition from the Association of Representatives of Bamileké Tribes (T/PET.5/800)

Communication from the Bamileké Chiefs of the Bafang Subdivision (T/COM.5/L.132)

1. All the above petitions relate to the incidents of May and lay the responsibility for them on the UPC, the JDC, the UDEFEC and even on the CGT. The Administering Authority would refer to its observations on petition T/PET.5/635 and point out that the occurrences mentioned by the petitioners are described in the information given in those observations.
2. The Administering Authority wishes to state that the judicial authorities have been able to establish proof of the attacks directed by the UPC against Messrs. Ernest Mahi, Binet Lavenir and Abel Minyem Bakang.
3. The Administering Authority entirely agrees with the Front National Camerounais regarding the UPC's efforts to create the impression that it represents the views of the Cameroonians people by swamping the United Nations Secretariat with a flood of petitions.

The Administering Authority wishes to state that the Foreign Relations Department of the Office of the French High Commissioner finds it very difficult to reply to such a mass of petitions which are becoming more and more a mere repetition of completely false statements.