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PETITIONS CONCERNING THE CAMEROONS UNDER FRENCH ADMINISTRATION

Observations of the French Government as Administering Authority

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1. Petition from Mr. Ambroise Tchoumchuna (T/PET.5/1282)

Mr. Ambroise Tchoumchuna, who was implicated in the murder of Mr. Joseph Kamguia, was detained during June 1957.

None of his property was confiscated during the search of his home which was carried out in accordance with the normal procedure on 4 June, in the presence of the Chief of the Mbouda Subdivision.

2. Petition from Mr. Maurice Maillochon (T/PET.5/1283)

Mr. Maillochon, who has been convicted once by the Yaounde Court in 1948 on a charge of assault and later by the Magistrate's Court with extended powers at Nanga-Eboko on a charge of passing a bad cheque, was to have been repatriated to France at the expense of the Territory in October 1945 as an indigent person.

In August 1956, however, as an act of grace, he was given a provisional permit to reside in the Cameroons valid for six months; from the expiry of that period he was expelled.

The expulsion was carried out in pursuance of Order No. 1515 of March 1957 and was ratified by the Administrative Council on 28 March 1957, under No. 149/CC/CA, in accordance with the provisions then in force (Decree of 15 June 1927, authorizing the Commissioners of the Republic in the Cameroons and Togoland to expel undesirable French nationals and aliens from the Territories).

3. Petition from Bamiléké Population Groups (T/PET.5/1288)

There is no body, legal or otherwise, called "Bamiléké Population Groups". It has been impossible to identify the signatories of the petition, which appears to be the work of a person of unbalanced mind.

4. Petition from the Chairman of the Fourth World Trade Union Congress (T/PET.5/1289)

The Confédération générale Kamerunaise de Travail was represented at the Leipzig World Trade Union Congress by its General Secretary, Mr. Jacques Ngom, who obtained a visa on the recommendation of the statutory commission one half of the members of which were representatives of the Cameroonian Government.

5. Petition from Mr. Basil Mouafo (T/PET.5/1292)

Basil Mouafo (or Waffo), who was sentenced in absentia to fifteen months' imprisonment, has not lived at Nkongsamba since May 1955.

He has no workshop in the Nkongsamba market. No police action took place in that market on 31 March 1957.

This petition, like the petitioner's earlier communications, has therefore no basis in fact whatsoever.

6. Petition from the Bandin tribe (T/PET.5/1293)

This communication is anonymous.

A reply was given on this subject in connexion with petition T/PET.4 and 5/18,^{1/}

7. Petition from Mr. Nkonchou (T/PET.5/1294)

Joseph Tchomnou was imprisoned on charges of participating in a criminal conspiracy, offences against the internal security of the State, theft, unauthorized carrying of arms, violence, and assault.

Thérèse Bouwa, against whom an order for committal to prison was made on 23 September 1957, was released on 1 October 1957.

8. Petition from Mr. Tegua (T/PET.5/1295)

Following the murder of Isaac Wambo and Andre Tchitchi during the night of 18-19 September 1957, fourteen persons were arrested on charges of murder, or attempted murder, or aiding and abetting. They have not yet been tried by the Criminal Court.

The case is also the subject of petitions T/PET.5/1304 and T/PET.5/1305, to which replies are given elsewhere.^{2/}

9. Petition from Mrs. Clotilde Gatchio (T/PET.5/1296)

It has not been possible to identify the petitioner.

On 9 July 1957, inhabitants of the Baham group were off in pursuit of malefactors who had wounded and abducted the wife of one of them. In the affray

^{1/} See T/OBS.4 and 5/18.

^{2/} See sections 12 and 13 of this document.

which ensued, a woman named Emilienne Magoua was killed and a man named Tatchuinkan wounded. An investigation was made by the Dschang Parquet, which found that the case was one of self-defence.

During the night of 4-5 August 1957, the same band of malefactors set fire to several houses in the group.

10. Petition from Mr. Michel Njingou (T/PET.5/1299)

Michel Njingou was sentenced on 26 May 1955 to two years' imprisonment by judgement No. 340 of the Nkongsamba Court for aiding and abetting in violence against an officer of the law.

It is true that his house was destroyed by rioters during the disturbances which were then taking place. He has lodged no complaint against the persons responsible and it has been impossible to identify them.

After his release, Mr. Michel Njingou was again imprisoned for ten days, for debt, on an order issued by the Procureur de la République at Nkongsamba on 19 June 1957.

11. Petition from the General Assembly of the inhabitants of the Eloloma Group (T/PET.5/1300)

There is no village called Eloloma in the Edéa Subdivision of the Sanaga-Maritime Region. The village whose name is closest to that given is Poutoloma, but the petitioners could not be identified there. Moreover, no action was taken by officers of the law in that village in December 1957. The petitioners' allegations concerning loss of life, disappearances and injuries are absolutely unfounded.

It is untrue that military units have been placed at the disposal of the Paramount Chiefs of the region, as the petitioners allege.

12. Nine petitions concerning the Cameroons under French administration and referring to an incident which occurred at Mantem on 19 September 1957 (T/PET.5/1304)

During the night of 18-19 September 1957, two Cameroonian notables of high repute, Mr. Isaac Wambo and Mr. André Tchitchi, were murdered and Mr. Simon Deffo was left for dead by his assailants.

The murders were committed by a group of persons claiming to belong to parties which have been dissolved.

The murderers, of whom there were fourteen, were arrested at the beginning of October. After they had confessed their guilt, they were imprisoned at Nkongsamba, where they are at present awaiting trial at an early date.

The allegation that five hundred policemen took part in the arrests is wholly fantastic.

Moreover, those of the alleged signatories of the petitions who could be interviewed formally declared that they had no knowledge of the complaints attributed to them. The real author appears to be a person residing in the Cameroons under British administration who has been a fugitive for several years.

It is untrue that Cameroonian nationals have been "deported". Sentences passed by Cameroonian courts are served in the penitentiary establishments of the Territory.

The Mantem case is also the subject of petitions T/PET.5/1295 and T/PET.5/1305, to which replies are given elsewhere.^{1/}

13. Five petitions concerning the Cameroons under French administration and referring to the arrest of Domchung Benoit, Kamtho Bernard, Guiffo Laurent and Kouam Marlice, and the death of Yebga Jean (T/PET.5/1305)

1.2. Details of the facts referred to in petitions Nos. 1 and 2 are given in the observations in reply to petitions T/PET.5/1295 and T/PET.5/1304.^{2/}

The signatory of petition No. 1, Mr. Fernand Kamguia, was himself a member of the terrorist group which murdered Mr. Isaac Wambo and Mr. André Tchitchi on the night of 18-19 September 1957. When a warrant was issued for his arrest, he left his home and is now living at Kumba in the British Cameroons.

Benoit Domchung, Bernard Kamtho, Laurent Guiffo and Maurice Kouam, who have been charged with complicity in the murder, are now awaiting trial at the Nkongsamba prison. They have not been subjected to ill treatment and are in good health.

3. Petition No. 3 is anonymous.

^{1/} See sections 8 and 13 of this document.

^{2/} See sections 8 and 12 of this document.

4. Contrary to the allegations of the authors of petition No. 4, Mr. Jean Yebga did not die as the result of ill-treatment. After his arrest at Douala on 27 September 1957 on a warrant issued by the examining judge at Eséka, he tried to escape by jumping from the vehicle which was taking him to the gendarmerie and hit his head on the road. He died of a cerebral haemorrhage some days later, despite the care which was given him at the Douala hospital.

5. Petition No. 5 comes from a party that was dissolved by Decree of the French Government dated 13 July 1955.

The Administering Authority regrets that it is unable to consider a document prepared by an organization which is prohibited by law.

6.7. Paragraphs 6 and 7 of the summarized document relate to general questions, which have already been examined by the Trusteeship Council.
