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COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF THE ASSOCIATION OF THE  
VETERANS OF THE BAMILEKE REGION CONCERNING THE CAMEROONS  
UNDER FRENCH ADMINISTRATION

(Circulated in accordance with rule 24 and supplementary rule F of the  
rules of procedure for the Trusteeship Council)

P E T I T I O N

Association of the Veterans of the Bamiléké Region  
at Dschang (AACS)

The General Assembly of the AACS of the Bamiléké Region, held at Dschang on 11 October 1953, after considering the case of our five comrades wishes to submit the following petition:

Following the letter of the Cameroonian Territorial Assembly, in which it approved a draft text submitted by the High Commissioner of the Cameroons providing that veterans should be given priority for employment in certain posts for which they were qualified, the General Assembly of the AACS of the Bamiléké Region notes that the officer in charge of Dschang sub-division has not so far applied this measure.

Moreover, following letter No. 425 of 4 June 1953 sent by the Cameroonian Territorial Assembly in reply to that of the AACS of the Bamiléké Region, dated 28 April 1953, transmitted by the Chairman of the Cameroonian Territorial Assembly to the ex officio Secretary of the Cameroonian Veterans, who was to examine the case of our five comrades dismissed from their employment, the AACS of the Bamiléké Region notes, from letter No. 635/33 of 23 September 1953 from the Cameroonian Territorial Assembly, that the ex officio Secretary of the Cameroonian Veterans has taken no action whatever regarding the case of the five persons in question.

The General Assembly of the AACS of the Bamiléké Region feels that the ex officio Secretary of the Cameroonian Veterans does not realize that, were it not for the Cameroonian veterans, his position in the Cameroons would be non-existent. The proof is, firstly, that the Assembly does not communicate the reply to its motions of 11 November 1952, 24 November 1952 and 21 March 1953. And, secondly, that it acknowledges the efforts of the Minister for Veterans' Affairs in the Cameroons regarding the case of our comrade Ngouné Etienne for which it would like to convey to him its sincere thanks, and that it is also aware of the fact that the ex officio Secretary of the Cameroonian veterans has not taken any action in the case.

Following a statement by Mr. Molinati, Deputy representing the French in the Cameroons under French Administration, published in the paper "Cameroon Libre" of 15 September 1953, to the effect that some texts were to be prepared in favour of French veterans, the General Assembly of the AACS of the Bamiléké Region would point out that the French Government, instead of catering for the French veterans first, should give priority to the veterans of French Equatorial Africa and French West Africa who fought in the French army to help the French people.

The General Assembly of the AACS in the Bamiléké Region, noting that the French Government has not implemented its motions from 1945 to the present day and wishes to cater for its own brothers who have been given satisfaction for a long time with regard to credit and to the various posts which they fill, requests that the action taken according to the statement of Deputy Molinati, should be in the common interest of all veterans without any distinction as to race, and also protests against the distinction made by the French Government between French veterans and those of French Equatorial Africa and French West Africa.

Since, in 1939, all the French organizations agreed that we could join the army, it would be better for the same organizations to agree to give us satisfaction.

The General Assembly of the AACS of the Bamiléké Region is transmitting several texts to you to avoid a reply by the French representative along the lines of that given in the case of Mr. Ngouné Etienne. Following the circular of Deputy Louis-Paul Aujoula, President of the Cameroonian Territorial Assembly, we forwarded the list of the French and British veterans at Yaoundé (Cameroons) as of 24 April 1953.

Hoping that the General Assembly of the United Nations will be kind enough to re-examine our motions attached to this petition, the General Assembly of the AACS of the Bamiléké Region wishes to express its sincerest thanks for your support in the case of our comrade Ngouné Etienne and also requests you to consider the cases of our five other comrades. The decisions concerning them are attached hereto.

As regards our five comrades, the General Assembly transmits to you the following extract from the note sent to the chairman on 31 March 1953 by the officer in charge of Dschang sub-division.

NG/F

NOTE

Bamiléké Region  
Dschang sub-division  
No. 64/N/S/ES

To Mr. Keumbou Edouard  
Chairman of the Veterans Association  
of the DSCHANG sub-division

I have the honour to inform you that, at the beginning of April, the sub-division intends to recruit five regional guards.

I am prepared to consider any applications from veterans who, all other things being equal, will be given priority.

The applicants will be interviewed on 4 April 1953.

Dschang, 31 March 1953

(Signed) P. MOUTERDE

Officer in charge of the  
sub-division

The General Assembly requests the Minister for Veterans' Affairs in Paris, as in its letter No. 5984, of 17 January, to intervene in the case of Mr. Ngouné Etienne; it also asks for the intervention of the Cameroonian Territorial Assembly in the said case.

CERTIFIED COPIES TO:

UNITED NATIONS I

MINISTER FOR VETERANS' AFFAIRS I

YAOUNDE TERRITORIAL ASSEMBLY I

RECORDS I

The following are the persons dismissed:

1. Nékontchou Jean, married, 2 wives, 4 children.
2. Mbouemba Joseph, married, 4 wives, 5 children.
3. Tsobzé Théodor, married, 2 wives, 3 children.
4. Numbot Mathieas, married, 2 wives, 2 children.
5. Ndongmo Salomon, married, 2 wives, 5 children.

The following are the decisions taken concerning two of our five comrades:

(1) "Mr. Mbouemba Joseph is dismissed from his post with effect from 8 April 1953, for the following reasons:

On several occasions he was asked to deliver some messages and failed to do so. Bad behaviour and unsatisfactory service."

(2) "Mr. Mékontchou Jean, regional guard third class in Dschang sub-division, is dismissed from his post with effect from 7 May 1953, for the following reason:

Continuously unsatisfactory service"

The General Assembly of the AACS considers that these are not adequate reasons for dismissing our comrades:

Dschang, 16 October 1953

(Signed) K. EDOUARD  
Chairman

For the Veterans' Association of the Bamiléké Region  
Dschang, Post Office Box No. 19

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