

# UNITED NATIONS TRUSTEESHIP COUNCIL



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COMMUNICATION FROM THE "COMITE DE BASE DU QUARTIER  
D'ELIG-BELIBI DE L'UNION DES POPULATIONS DU  
CAMEROUN" CONCERNING THE CAMEROONS UNDER  
FRENCH ADMINISTRATION

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UNION DES POPULATIONS DU CAMEROUN (U.P.C.)  
COMITE DE BASE, ELIG-BELIBI QUARTER,  
YAOUNDE (Cameroons under  
French Administration)

The members of the COMITE

To the Chairman of the Fourth Committee of the United Nations General  
Assembly, c/o the Secretary-General of the United Nations,

NEW YORK

Sir,

We appeal, as always respectfully and in writing, to your high authority, in  
order to submit our just claims. Although we fear to be importunate, we feel that  
we must write to you, since the events distressing us are constantly recurring.  
We will return to the charge and we urge you to show the same patience.

For the moment, we would merely draw your attention to the following facts.  
It would appear, even if it does not eventually come to pass, that the Administering  
Authority has already reached another decision. The idea has been born and we know  
about it. We have heard that a delegation of about sixty traditional chiefs from  
the Cameroons under French Administration will shortly leave the Territory for  
New York in order to be heard by the Fourth Committee which has been meeting for  
some days; they are to contradict the one and only spokesman of the people of the  
Cameroons, Mr. Ruben UM Nyobe who is known practically everywhere in the Territory,  
if not in person at least by name and by the resounding success of the meetings at  
which he reported on his 1952 mission.

It is well known that, in 1952, no sooner had the representative of the U.P.C. been summoned to lay his people's claims before the United Nations, than the Administering Authority hastily sent two persons elected by the colonialists ahead of him to thwart our legitimate aspirations. The resounding defeat which the people's representative inflicted on these representatives of the French Government is equally well known.

Similarly, in 1953, the earlier envoys having proved inept, the colonialist authority was forced to select a minor local civil servant, called de BISSECK Guillaume, who proved to be incompetent when he stated before the General Assembly that he occasionally spoke on behalf of his party; since his return to the Territory at the end of his mission he has not so far dared to hold a single meeting to report on his great mission.

It is most surprising therefore to learn that about sixty or more Chiefs are preparing to proceed to the United Nations.

The people of the Cameroons are wondering whether it is right that weight of numbers should prevail over reason. We are still puzzled. If weight of numbers is really important, the officials employed in various administrative bureaux plus the notorious traditional Chiefs certainly number at the most one quarter of those who are staunch supporters of our national movement.

We therefore proclaim that, if it was necessary and possible for everyone to go to New York, we would all do so. We would very soon be confronted with difficulties, however, some of which are at present insurmountable. A few facts would be sufficient to show that we shall mention only two:

1. This journey would involve a cost of several hundreds of millions of francs which neither the local African budget nor the metropolitan budget could meet.

2. The people of the Cameroons also wonder with amazement how long it would take to obtain signatures to the large number of visas necessary if the whole population of the Cameroons (minus the colonialist chiefs and civil servants) were to go to NEW YORK, since it took 42 days to obtain one visa for the spokesman of the U.P.C.

We wish to inform you that we shall do everything in our power to achieve our ends, which the colonialists wish to put away in their safes.

In conclusion we confidently confirm that Mr. Ruben UM Nyobe, who has been chosen by his brethren in the two Cameroons under French and British Administration, will always co-operate with the United Nations General Assembly, if the Assembly so desires, on behalf of the only National Movement in the Cameroons, namely the U.P.C.

Please accept our heartfelt thanks.

YAOUNDE, 2 February 1954

For the members of the COMITE  
(Signed) (Illegible)  
Chairman

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