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COMMUNICATION FROM THE KOUMASSI LOCAL COMMITTEE OF THE "UNION
DES POPULATIONS DU CAMEROUN" CONCERNING THE CAMEROONS UNDER
FRENCH ADMINISTRATION

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UNION DES POPULATIONS DU CAMEROUN

Cameroonian Section of the Rassemblement Démocratique Africain
Koumassi Local Committee
P.O. Box 22, New-Bell, DOUALA

Douala, 19 May 1955

To the State Counsel General
YAOUNDE

Sir,

I have the honour to bring the following to your attention:

Ever since the establishment of the Union des Populations du Cameroun (U.P.C.) the great movement for national liberation, the Colonialists and their henchmen have carried on a campaign of slander against its most beloved leaders in order to mislead Cameroonian public opinion. Since the campaign of slander was a failure, the Administration has turned to hostility and even open warfare against the active members of the U.P.C.

Thus blood has flowed quite recently at Bafoussam, Meiganga, Mbanga and Douala; there have been a number of illegal arrests such as that of 13 May 1955 at Douala; the police and armed forces have been guilty of brutal acts committed under the benevolent eyes of the magistrates.

For example at Foumban, on 25 March 1953, at Mbouroukou on 12 December 1953, at Melong-II, at N'Kongsamba, at Eséka, etc., numerous crimes were committed and their authors went scot-free and to our knowledge are still at liberty.

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Mr. Monthémi André, Chief of the "GENERAL STAFF", planning attempts on the lives of U.P.C. leaders, has recently been congratulated by the Government-controlled press.

The terrorists of Mbalmayo, the incendiaries of Eséka and the criminals of Bansoa are left undisturbed while innocent Cameroonian citizens struggling for the immediate unification and independence of their country are frequently haled before the courts. To cover up these misdeeds, women who accompany their comrades to show their solidarity are clubbed and armed force is resorted to to deny us the right even to set foot in the lobby.

Sir, the question arises whether the word justice can be applied in the Cameroons when merely to go with someone to the court as a mark of loyalty constitutes an offence against the Administration and the bench; when merely to accompany someone to the court as a mark of loyalty is a legal pretext for calling out troops.

When the U.P.C. tries to keep world public opinion informed, or at least to bring the facts to the knowledge of the magistrates, we must expect to be charged with making false accusations. In this connexion, Sir, allow us to give an example: in 1953, at Babimbi, Mr. Ruben UM NYOBE, General Secretary of the U.P.C., and his audience were attacked and their flag was stolen. Mr. Ruben UM NYOBE lodged a complaint against X and offered to bring a civil action; he gave the names of a number of witnesses in support of his case.

Subsequently neither Mr. Ruben UM NYOBE nor any of his witnesses were given a hearing by the court, but on the other hand it is claimed that a decision dismissing the charges was notified to we know not whom, so as to open the way for counter-charges. Sometimes accusations are made of vindictiveness and bad faith, in order to cover up the evil.

But the truth will out. The truth, which is too powerful, obliged the newspaper Marchés Coloniaux in its issue of 7 May 1955 to state objectively that Mr. Ruben UM NYOBE is a man of "incorruptible" integrity and honour. Judging from what this newspaper says, there is no longer any excuse for calling him a "communist".

This statement by the Marchés Coloniaux, which is a weighty argument against the accusation of vindictiveness and bad faith, will no doubt serve as basic evidence and we are convinced that this evidence will be a valuable help to us.

For the above reasons we ask that Mr. Ruben UM NYOBE should be acquitted outright.

We have the honour to be, etc.

For the Koumassi Local Committee:

(Signed) Bissohong Nim E.

Secretary

Masso Etienne

Vice-Chairman
