

UNITED NATIONS  
TRUSTEESHIP  
COUNCIL



Dist. **T**  
LIMITED

T/COM.4/L.14  
5 March 1956

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

COMMUNICATION FROM SOPPO BOBILA VILLAGERS CONCERNING  
THE CAMEROONS UNDER BRITISH ADMINISTRATION

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

Soppo Bobila, Villagers,  
C/o Chief Lyonga Kange,  
Soppo Bobila,  
Native Court Buea.  
22nd November, 1955

The Manager,  
Cameroons Development Corporation,  
Tole Tea Farm,  
Soppo/Buea.

Dear Sir,

Land Dispute C.D.C. and Soppo Bobila:

We notice that you came in our village on the 20th November 1955, to warn some of the villagers that they must stop all farming operations behind their houses in the area under dispute between the C.D.C. and ourselves because you wished to make a new tea farm in the area.

2. We are not pleased with this action.
3. We would draw your attention to our interview with you in March this year when we discussed this matter and when we gave you several proofs that the land in question was our own and not for the C.D.C. You informed us that you were expecting an expert surveyor to show you the correct boundary of Tole Estate. Since that time, we have heard nothing from you and we are surprised that while we are waiting for the result of your expert, you have determined to clear the land in dispute.

4. We should like to inform you that the District Officer had a meeting with us in this village on the 1st October, 1955, in respect of a request made through him by the Board of Management of the C.D.C. that they wished to draw water from our streams and that the pipes would be put through our villages. During the meeting we mentioned to him our outstanding claim on this land which had been wrongly enclosed by the C.D.C. with pillars, Nos. 1919/1924.
5. The reply or advice of the District Officer was that he was aware of the claim therefore we should wait till such time that he would arrange with the C.D.C. to settle this matter.
6. It appears that it is becoming a habit in this country that at any time that the natives are told to wait for the result of a claim on a piece of land, they are taken unaware by the C.D.C. to clear the land.
7. We understand that you are sending your labourers by Monday the 28th November, 1955, to clear the area for your new tea farm. If on the receipt of this letter, you continue to make your arrangement to cultivate the land in question, we shall do the clearing together and the farm will become a common farm of C.D.C. and the people of Soppo Bobila.
8. We would like you to note that:
1. We do not expect our food crops and valuable plants to be destroyed as it happened in Bulu and other areas.
  2. We are absolutely short of land and we wish to make use of this land for farming.
  3. We are claiming for the small uncultivated land from the end of C.D.C. Tea farm to our villages.
  4. Our claim has been outstanding since 1946 and should now be settled.

Yours faithfully,

(Signed) P.E. SONI

" ..... (Illegible)  
" ..... "  
" ..... "

c.c. The District Officer,  
Victoria.

" " The General Manager,  
C.D.C. - Bota.

" " The Visiting Mission of the  
Trusteeship Council Touring the  
Cameroons in 1955.

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