

TRUSTEESHIP
COUNCIL



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COMMUNICATION FROM MR. JEAN MAMBOU CONCERNING
THE CAMEROONS UNDER FRENCH ADMINISTRATION

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rule of procedure for the Trusteeship Council)

Nkongssamba, 25 November 1954
People of Bansa, Bamileké Region,
DSCHANG Subdivision

To the High Commissioner of the French Republic in the Cameroons
Yaoundé

Sir,

The village of Bansa is in danger. The village of Bansa has become the scene of a massacre. Why is this? Is it because the poor villagers oppose the collection of a tax on their simple customary market?

What can these poor people sell to obtain the money to give to the tax collector? Their pimientos, which they have to sell for under 15 francs, their scanty bunches of bananas that fetch less than 10 francs and articles that bring so little per person?

Make your own calculations, you are better able to do so than we. On the twentieth of this month, the Chief of the Dschang Subdivision came to the village of Bansa with more than sixty well-armed Cameroonian guards, who committed such acts of brutality there that we cannot draw up the full list of the victims and the prisoners.

We wish to point out in passing, that if the letters and telegrams we have been constantly sending you had been taken into account, this test of strength without any good or legal cause could not have taken place.

To what are we to attribute this crime committed against the innocent inhabitants of the village of Bansa? We do not and shall not forget that our

village chief, Mr. TCHIDA, is one of the victims of these criminal measures, but we are well aware that a village chief is not greater than the chief of the Territory.

Sir, in spite of all these threats, we shall not tire of opposing the collection of this tax in our village, whatever form it may take, for we do so in full awareness of an essential fact, which is that we lack the necessary means to pay these taxes; and we ask that our compatriots, imprisoned without cause, in the Dachang jail, may be released.

In the hope that this request will move you to turn your face to the village of Bansoa and to end the trouble there by meeting the views of its inhabitants, we have the honour to be, etc.

For the people of Bansoa,

P.O. MAMBOU Jean

Post Office Box 129, Nkongsamba,
Cameroons

(Signed) illegible

Copies to:

High Commissioner, Yaoundé
Minister for Overseas France
United Nations, New York
Chief Law Officer, Yaoundé
Bamileké Region