

TRUSTEESHIP
COUNCIL



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COMMUNICATION FROM MR. BATIND MAKON PAULIN 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)

MESSONDO, 15 July 1954

To the Chairman of the Fourth Committee,
United Nations, New York

Sir,

The petition dated 10 September 1953, which I forwarded to you with respect to the property in the Cameroons which was taken from me by the French Government in 1936, contains all the facts of the case and states my claims against the Government; you will find all this information in the report dated 10 September 1953 which is in your possession.

In June 1954, I built a hut on that property; however, on 8 July 1954 Mr. LIMA and the Chief of the Eseka Subdivision informed me that they would have the police tear down the hut, as the property had not belonged to me since 1936.

As the property was never sold to the French Government in the Cameroons, I asked that Government - and still do so - why it resorted to force and sold the land to a private individual.

I therefore request that the French Government:

1. Award me damages;
2. Return my property and my means of livelihood.

In the hope that my pleas will be heeded, I have the honour to be, etc.

BATIND MAKON Paulin,
peasant,
at MESSONDO C.F.C.
via ESEKA
Cameroons under French
Administration

Messondo, 15 July 1954

To the Chief of the Sanaga Maritime Region,

EDEA

Sir,

I respectfully request you for information concerning the property on which Mr. LIMA, the timber merchant, resides.

My reason for this request is that in 1936 the French Government constructed a landing field on the property which I inherited from my ancestors. Since the field was built in the centre of Messondo as a measure of protection for the Territory as a whole, no objection was raised.

In 1948, however, the land became the private property of Mr. Erchoff, a timber merchant.

Mr. Erchoff's heir, Vira LIMA, is still exploiting the land.

But, since it was never sold to the Government, the latter should not have sold it to a private individual.

I should be glad if you would give me the necessary information and if the Government itself would give me the required explanation regarding the status of the land from 1936 to 1948 and from 1948 to the present day.

In the hope that my pleas will be heeded, I have the honour to be, etc.

BATIND-MAKON Paulin
peasant at Messondo (C.F.C.)
via ESEKA, Cameroons

MESSONDO, 15 July 1954

To the President of the Territorial Assembly of the Cameroons (ATCAM)
YAOUNDE

Sir,

I respectfully place the following matter before you.

In 1936, the French Government in the Cameroons took from me a property amounting to about 27 hectares in the centre of Messondo in order to construct a landing field. A few years later, around 1948, the Government sold the property to Mr. ERCHOFF, a timber merchant.

Mr. Vira LIMA, who now resides on the property, is Mr. ERCHOFF's heir. However, since the property was never sold to the Government, the latter should not have sold it.

I have raised objections and filed claims with the administrative authorities of the French Government in the Cameroons, as follows:

1. The High Commissioner at Yaoundé, by registered letter No. 93 of 29 August 1952;
2. The Chief of the Sanaga Maritime Region at Edea, by registered letter No. 63 of 23 August 1952;
3. The President of the Territorial Assembly of the Cameroons (Aujoulat), by registered letter No. 216 of 30 September 1953;
4. Abbé Joseph MELONE, representative in the Territorial Assembly, by registered letter No. 215 of 30 September 1953.

None of them has replied or even acknowledged receipt of my letters.

I should be grateful if you could arrange for the Government to explain the status of my land and property between 1936 and the present day. I should like the Government to award me damages and to return my property, my means of livelihood.

In the hope that my pleas will be heeded, I have the honour to be, etc.

BATIND MAKON Paulin
Peasant at Messondo, C.F.C.
via Eseka, Cameroons

MESSONDO, 15 July 1954

To the Minister for Overseas France
Rue Oudine
Paris 7^e

Sir,

I respectfully submit the following matter for your consideration.

In 1936 the French Government in the Cameroons constructed a landing field on property which I had inherited from my ancestors. As that was done for the protection of the Territory as a whole, no objection was raised.

In 1948, however, the land became the private property of Mr. ERCHOFF, a timber merchant.

VIRA LIMA, who now resides on the property, is Mr. ERCHOFF's heir. Since the property was never sold to the Government, the latter should not have sold it.

I have raised objections and filed claims with the senior officials of the French Government in the Cameroons, as follows:

- The High Commissioner of the Cameroons at Yaoundé, by registered letter No. 93 of 29 August 1952;
- The Chief of the Sanaga Maritime Region at Edea, by registered letter No. 63 of 23 August 1952;
- The Land Tax Collector at Douala, by registered letter No. 91 of 29 August 1952;
- The Director of Water Supplies and Forests at Yaoundé, by registered letter No. 92 of 29 August 1952;
- The President of the Territorial Assembly of the Cameroons (Mr. AUJOULAT), by registered letter No. 216 of 30 September 1953;
- Abbé Joseph MELONE, representative of the Sanaga Maritime Region in the Territorial Assembly at Yaoundé, by registered letter No. 215 of 30 September 1953.

No action has been taken on my letters nor has their receipt been acknowledged.

I should be glad if you would intervene with the Government with a view to (1) its awarding me damages and (2) its returning my property, my means of livelihood.

In the hope that my pleas will be heeded, I have the honour to be, etc.

BATIND MAKON Paulin
peasant at Messondo, C.F.C.
via Eseka, Cameroons.
