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COMMUNICATION FROM MR. KWAMI THOMAS CONCERNING TOGOLAND
UNDER FRENCH ADMINISTRATION

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

KWAMI THOMAS
c/o P.O. Box 86
HOHOE (British Togoland)

Hohoe, 28 November 1954

Subject: PETITION

Sir:

I have the honour respectfully to acknowledge receipt of the resolution which the Trusteeship Council adopted at its 480th meeting on 14 July 1953 concerning the questions raised in the petition of the Conseil Coutumier of Badou (T/PET.7/315 and Add.1) and to submit a further petition to give you a clearer picture of my position.

The village of Badou consists of three (3) quartiers with a single Conseil Coutumier having ten (10) members:

1. ALAKPATADI. The largest quartier where the royal family lives; it is also frequently called BOSSIEDZOE.
2. ETSITEDZOE. The quartier where the family of the great Sub-chiefs lives.
3. ALUNA. The smallest quartier which provides police messengers for the Chief. So far I have known only one such messenger, the elder Agbelo.

The members of the Conseil Coutumier come from the following quartiers:

ALAKPATADI Quartier: Misre Dzovor, Myamekou Akoe, Akossi Ewozo, Akpemedo Yakpo, Abotsi Ayate, Adoli Okle (deceased), Anyati Koudzrame.

ETSITEDZOE Quartier: Ekpega Dotse and Adoli Kpossogne.

ALUNA Quartier: Oleti Tribo who happens to be the maternal uncle of Herman Egblomasse.

Thus there is only the Conseil Coutumier and no other body at Badou to attend to all the customs and to conduct all the village ceremonies.

It is at the ceremonies for the election of the Chief that the Ekpe Iwu family of Kessibo presents the Chief elected by the Council to the village inhabitants (see the letter of 26 October 1952 addressed to Governor Pechoux a copy of which was transmitted to you on 25 November 1952.^{1/}

In June 1949, Chief Ebglomasse Dzavon of Badou died. According to Akposso custom, the Conseil Coutumier allows some time to pass after the death of the Chief before making it public, and still more time before proceeding to the election of another Chief and to the funeral rites.

One month after the death of the Chief, members of the Conseil Coutumier of Badou went to Anonoe, inviting only a few of the members of the Conseils Coutumiers of the eight other villages to attend the meeting, and there they announced the death of the great Chief Ebglomasse Dzavon.

Passing over Herman Ebglomasse, who was the son of the deceased and had been his father's secretary, the Council invited Agbetete Paul, son of Chief Agbetete of Tomegbe, who was then a teacher at the Catholic Mission school at Tomegbe, to write a letter notifying the Governor, the Commandant of Atakpame and the Representative Assembly of Togoland. The Governor arrived on 6 March 1950 to present his condolences to the population. He put the following questions to the elders:

Governor: "Have you elected a Chief?"

Village elders: "We have not yet elected another Chief because, according to custom, we must wait for some time to elapse..."

Governor: "Through whom shall I transmit my orders?"

Village elders: "Until we elect another Chief, write as usual, addressing your letter to the deceased Chief, and our secretary Herman Ebglomasse, acting under the authority of Dagadou Anati, will read the orders to us when your letter arrives."

^{1/} Note by the Secretariat: This letter is kept by the Secretariat in the file pertaining to petition T/PET.7/315 and will be made available to members of the Trusteeship Council upon request.

I was present when the Governor spoke.

Mr. Jominie, a mulatto, formerly Customs Chief at Badou, who is a friend of Herman Eglomasse and now works as a clerk for the Administration at Lomé, acted as an interpreter between the elders and the Governor.

Letters were received from the Commandant and the Governor. As usual, the population met in the courtyard of the late Chief and Herman Eglomasse, standing next to the elder Dagadou Anyati, read the letters to us.

Herman Eglomasse and his friend Jominie wrote a letter and took it to Dagadou Anyati to sign. They asked other prominent people to sign the letter, but they refused to do so, because they did not agree with its contents. When the Conseil Coutumier learned of this, it put questions to Herman Eglomasse whose explanations were completely off the point. The letter had stated that the funeral rites for the Chief would be held four (4) years after the Chief's death, and that during that time Herman was to rule as Chief until a new Chief had been elected.

It is because of all these events that the Administering Authority calls Herman Eglomasse regent of the Canton of Litimé.

Contrary to the Administering Authority's statement that Herman Eglomasse has been regent of the Canton of Litimé since 1949 when he was appointed in accordance with custom, he has not been recognized as regent of Litimé by any customary procedure.

In November 1950, the Conseil wrote a letter to the Governor, the Commandant de cercle and to the A.R.T. to inform them that the Conseil Coutumier of the village would elect a new chief at Badou on 12 December 1950.

On 12 December 1950 the choice fell on Kwami Appeti II.

On 30 December 1950, Jean Toulassi and Patrice Patso, a delegation from the A.R.T., came to Badou to confirm that a new Chief had been elected.

In 1951, the villagers paid their personal taxes, as usual to their chefs de famille or de quartier who are also members of the Conseil Coutumier. The Conseil transmitted all the taxes to the elected chief who then went to Atakpamé to pay them, but Commandant Lebellec prohibited the tax collector from accepting the tax money.

When the Commandant was touring Litimé, the Conseil met him at Badou and asked him why he had refused to accept the tax money. The Commandant countered with accusations, grew angry, and left the Conseil for Atakpamé.

On the Conseil's instructions, the chief again went to Atakpamé to pay the taxes and the same problem arose; the chief returned home and sent the entire amount by money order to Commandant Lavalée. Its receipt has not even been acknowledged and no tax stubs have been issued.

The Conseil asked me to serve as its secretary and as secretary to the elected chief. A letter was written to the Commandant de cercle on the subject. There was no reply. I waited a long time for the Commandant's reply in order to assume my functions, but I waited in vain.

I hesitated until 1952, and now the elders ask anybody to write letters to the Commandant and to the Governor.

The taxes were again collected in 1952; the chief had to pay them at Atakpamé. The Conseil instructed me to go with the Chief as his secretary. When the two of us got to the Cercle, Mr. Keme Gabriel, the tax collector, informed Commandant Lebellec who sent us away. The Chief returned to Badou on 30 April 1952 and returned all the tax money to the Conseil Coutumier which was displeased by the Commandant's action.

On 13 June 1952, Commandant Paul Milleleri, accompanied by gendarmes and by the Commissioner of Police, came to Badou. He called all the villagers together at Herman Egblomasse's home. Holding a list in his hands, he called upon the members of the Conseil, one by one, and questioned them. The Conseil said: "Kwami Appeti is our Chief. We have turned all the taxes to be collected over to him for transmission to you; when you refused to accept them, he returned them to us." The Commandant said nothing more. He then called for the Chief and me, Kwami Thomas, and we went up to him. The Commandant said: "I arrest you, Kwami Appeti, and you, Kwami Thomas".

The gendarmes stripped Kwami Appeti in the sight of the whole population and left him nothing but a pair of shorts to cover his nakedness. He was handcuffed as he was and was taken to the old customs office at Badou. The Commandant accused him of embezzling tax money.

Not knowing what the charges against me were, I asked the Commandant through Agboton the interpreter why I, too, had been arrested. When the question was put to him, the Commandant turned to Herman Egblomassé and asked him the following:

"What has this young man done?"

Three times the Commandant put the question to Herman Egblomassé who did not know what to say. The Commandant told me through the interpreter: "Go away and watch your step in future, I know that you are only a taxpayer."

Kwami Appeti was thrown into a lorry and taken by the gendarmes to Atakpamé, some 105 kilometres from Badou, where he was put in prison. The following day, the Conseil sent me to Atakpamé to see for myself what the Administration was doing to its Chief. The day after, the members of the Conseil came to Atakpamé and brought me a letter they had written to the Commandant and to the Governor, explaining how they had elected their chief and how they had recognized him according to custom and tradition. I put the names of the elders at the bottom of the letter, which was typewritten; the elders put their signatures next to their names, and I then posted the letter to the persons concerned.

The following morning, the elders went to see the Commandant to state their case verbally. Mr. Agboton was our interpreter; the elders spoke in Akposso, I translated their words into Ewe and Mr. Agboton translated from Ewe into French for the Commandant. At 11 a.m., Mr. Agboton was taken ill with a fever and went to the hospital. At 2 p.m. we were summoned by the Commandant and went to his office where he spoke to us through the interpreter, Philippe Zoglo. The new interpreter did not know me. Mr. Philippe Zoglo wished to say something to the Commandant, but hesitated to do so. He turned to me and asked me in Ewe: "wo se franse gbea" (meaning, "do you understand French?"). I said no, in order to find out what he wanted to say to Commandant Paul Millery.

Mr. Philippe Zoglo then no longer hesitated to tell the Commandant in our presence that all the elders of the Conseil Coutumier of Badou belong to the C.U.T. and that if he retained Kwami Appeti as Chief, the whole of Litimé would be for the C.U.T. That could certainly not be tolerated. He added that it was Theophile Mally who was responsible for all the trouble throughout Akposso and urged that the Council should be forced to annul the customary ceremonies by which Kwami Appeti had been recognized as Chief.

The elders were surprised to hear Philippe Zoglo mention Theophile Mally and Kwami Appeti in his long conversation with the Commandant, since they themselves had said nothing so far. They turned to me and asked me what Philippe Zoglo had just told the Commandant. I was forced to tell them. The elders grew angry and accused Philippe Zoglo of having said those things to the Commandant. Zoglo swore at me because he had been put to shame before the elders. He left us in a huff. The Commandant did not know through whom to speak to us. I told him that I speak French, at which he started in surprise; I then acted as interpreter between the elders and the Commandant.

On five occasions within 3 or 4 days, we were summoned by the Commandant and went to see him; the same conversation took place every time and we were sent to the Commissioner of Police, Mr. Cimare, a European gendarme. Going back and forth from the gendarmerie to the Cercle and from the Cercle back to the gendarmerie was very tiring to the elders. They still refused to annul the election of their Chief as the Commandant told them to. They said that they knew nothing about current politics and that they were too old to engage in political manoeuvring.

In July, Kwami Appeti was transferred to Lomé. At the end of July and during August 1952, all the elders of the Conseil Coutumier were arrested. They were forced to annul the election of Kwami Appeti. Six of them were set free because of their advanced age and even more out of fear that the United Nations Visiting Mission might find them in prison in their lamentable state.

Nyamekou Akoe was kept at the hospital on the ground that he was suffering from leprosy, together with old Ougato of Akposso Oulatse who was suspected of having kept the tax money that his son, Deou Ougato, who is the village chief of Oulatse, had collected. The elder Adoli Kpossogne was made to suffer in prison. Not knowing that I was at Lomé to retain a counsel to defend the poor prisoners in court, the gendarmes came several times to Badou to look for me. In reply to their inquiries, the villagers said: "Kwami Thomas is a merchant; he may have gone to Lomé or Atakpamé where he often buys goods for his shop."

My quartier took care to send out a young man to warn me at Lomé. I was forced to live at Lomé, and when I had to go to Badou, I would go through Kadzabi (British Togoland) and enter my village at night; when I had to be there during

the day, I would only go after making careful inquiries to ensure that I was not taken unawares.

From 20 September until 9 October, Philippe Zoglo made propaganda for the election of a chief throughout the Canton de Litimé. He went from village to village with gardes de cercle and Herman Egblomassé, calling for the elders of the villages in the Canton one by one, and giving each a summons to present himself to the Commandant on 10 October 1952 at Badou. He presented Herman Egblomassé to each of the elders, saying: "This is Herman Egblomassé; he is the man you must appoint as chief of Litimé in the presence of the Commandant de cercle on 10 October 1952; otherwise you will be arrested. I don't want you to go to prison, that is why I am telling you this. I don't think you know how we arrested the elders of Badou." He did not carry on such propaganda at Badou, because the elders would not let him near them.

The Commandant arrived at Badou on 10 October 1952 at 9 a.m. He sent 4 lorries to collect the elders and some young men who were curious to see what the elders were going to do at Badou. All the villagers were surprised to see swarms of people arriving at intervals at Badou. Then the village elders were sent for, who did not yet know of the Commandant's arrival and of the crowd gathered at the Badou customs house.

One of the elders was absent, one was Herman's uncle, two were in prison and one was dead. Only five elders remained at home. Commandant Paul Milleferi got up amidst the seated crowd, and said: "Who wants to be Chief at Badou?" All the foreigners and the elders of Badou were surprised at the question because that had never been the customary procedure for the election of a chief. Egblomassé Herman raised his hand and said: "I do...". The Commandant continued: "Who opposes Herman?" Nobody replied, and the crowd watched him in silence. Not knowing what to do, the Commandant took out a list and read out the names of the elders to whom Zoglo had issued summonses during his campaign for the election of a chief.

When he had finished, he said: "I shall start with Mr. Obakou Dzena of Kessibo. Do you oppose Herman? Say yes or no."

Obakou Dzena: "I am against this method of electing a chief. The village elders of Badou must elect the Chief of Badou. We do not know the character and conduct of the villagers belonging to the royal family; how then can we elect a good chief for the village?"

Commandant: "Will you reply 'yes'?"

Obakou Dzena: "No, that would be contrary to custom."

Commandant: "Come out of the crowd, and stand here. You will give your explanations at Atakpamé." Immediately a brigadier put his hand on the elder's shoulder and he was separated from the rest. The brigadier said to him several times: "I arrest you... I arrest you..."

All the foreigners remembered what Philippe Zoglo had told each of them and were overcome by fear.

The Commandant resumed: "The next person I call upon shall reply by saying 'yes' or 'no'." Who would have said "no" thereafter? It was because he had said "no" that Obakou Dzena had been arrested and was soon to be taken to prison at Atakpamé.

All this intimidation reduced the foreigners to saying only "yes, I want Herman to be Chief", in order to escape the imprisonment with which they were threatened without any legal justification. Obakou Dzena was forced to say "yes". He was told: "See how your own people are saying 'yes'."

In the end, he, too, said "yes", but against his will. The Commandant gave orders that he should be set free because he had finally obeyed. Then the elder was able to join his people. When they had finished with the foreigners, they turned to the 5 elders of Badou who had the right to elect the chief of Badou.

The five replied "No, we have elected Kwami Appeti as Village Chief, and we cannot now elect someone else. You can put us back in gaol..." (This is the procedure to which the Administering Authority is referring when it states that "On 10 October 1952, the Conseil Coutumier of the Canton of Litimé, acting in accordance with the customary procedure, appointed the regent Herman EGBLOMASSE as Chef de Canton of Litimé by forty-five votes to five").

Both the foreigners and the elders of Badou are angry at the way they have been tricked.

The Conseil Coutumier of Badou sent a young man to fetch me from Lomé. The elders told me the whole story, as did the young people of the village.

The elders asked me to write a letter of protest to the Governor; my letter was dated 26 October 1952, and a copy was transmitted to you on 25 November 1952.^{1/}

^{1/} See Secretariat note, page 2.

The Governor did not answer the letter and the two administrators were angry because they had received a letter of appeal requesting the invalidation of the election of the Chief which they had engineered.

1. Mr. Philippe Zoglo, accompanied by Mr. Sylvestre Eklor, came to Lomé to look for me and arrest me. Not knowing my whereabouts, they went and asked Mr. Affola Thadée, who comes from the village of Akposso-Tomégbéqui and is a mechanic at the Central Garage at Lomé, to show them my house. Fortunately, the mechanic did not know where I lived. He met me in the rue d'Amoutivé and said: "Administrator Philippe Zoglo and Eklor Sylvestre want you; you ought to go and see them".

I said nothing to the mechanic and left the village for Aplawu (British Togoland), about 3 kilometres away from the town.

2. A week later, Herman Egblomassé, Eklor Sylvestre and Linus Agbetonyo went to Lomé, looking for me.

3. When they reached Badou, they were told that I was at Lomé, and they went back there... I left Lomé to stay with a relative at Accra.

4. A Dahoman gendarme, related to Philippe Zoglo, now at Palimé, bought a bottle of gin from a driver friend of mine, so as to be able to ask him where I was...

5. On the day when Nyamékou Akoé, the elder sentenced to four months' imprisonment and to a fine of 12,000 francs, was due to be released, Philippe Zoglo declared in the presence of a considerable number of people that he wanted to see me; otherwise, he said, the prisoner would not be set free.

The elder replied: "I am in prison and don't know where he is."

6. The Conseil Coutumier wrote to me not to come, because Philippe Zoglo was still looking for me.

7. Mr. Victor Aktapamey, General Secretary of the P.T.P. at Atakpamé called on Mrs. Denise Myadzogbé, and asked her to tell him where I was, because I had rented a room in her house, where I used to stay for two or three days to buy stock for my shop at Badou, and doubtless also because the woman is my sister-in-law and might have been expected to know my whereabouts.

Mr. Nyamékou Blaise had gone to Atakpamé to visit his father, who had been taken to hospital. He was given the use of my room. When the gendarmes heard that a young man was living in my room, they went and arrested him, and put him in prison, thinking that he was me.

When the roll was called there, Nyamékou Blaise was addressed as Kwami Thomas.

The prisoner stated that his name was not Kwami Thomas. He was not believed and had his face slapped.

Mr. Dankoa Gagnan, Herman Eglomassé's sub-chief, went to Atakpamé, it is said, to hand the Commandant a few reports against the Litimé members of the C.U.T.

The Commandant remembered the prisoner and ordered him to be brought in.

The Commandant: "Mr. Gagnan, what is this man's name?"

Dankoa Gagnan: "His name is Gnamekou Blaise."

The Commandant: "Are you sure?"

Dankoa Gagnan: "Yes, Sir."

The Commandant then ordered Nyamekou Blaise's release, after fifteen days' imprisonment.

Here is a list of some of the Akpossos who have left Togoland under French Trusteeship as a result of proceedings being instituted against them:

1. Christian Kwamé, General Chairman of the C.U.T., Litimé, now at Kuté (British Togoland).
2. Paul Agbété, President of the Akposso Conseil de Circonscription, who first fled to Accra and is now at Hohoe-Bla.
3. Afola Christian Gbeadegbe, Village Chief of Amoublo, who went to Kadzebi, returned and was arrested. Chief Afola Christian Gbeadegbe attempted to re-enter French Togoland; he was arrested in March 1953 and was not released until 5 November 1953.

In view of all the proceedings instituted against us, Chief Afola Christian's arrest, and the discovery of nine consecutive attempts to trace me, I am amazed that the French representative should have made a point of confirming that no proceedings have been instituted against the persons referred to in the petitions who have left the Territory for the Gold Coast, and should have given the assurance that no proceedings would be instituted if they returned to Togoland under French Administration.

If this assurance has been given in good faith, we have the honour to request the representative of France through the United Nations for a written document or certificate peimitting us to return to French Togoland without being imprisoned.

We shall then show the document to the authorities at Atakpamé. We should like to go back next month at the latest because we are weighed down with homesickness. It is now two years since I left by mother's home, since my father and mother have seen their son, who lives in exile in British territory.

The business, with a capital of about 400,000 francs, which I started in French Togoland has been at a standstill for two years and is thus almost lost, because I am living herè with my wife and we have to eat and rent a room: so I no longer have a job.

Appointment of Herman Egblomassé as Cantonal Chief of Litimé by Governor Péchoux on 7 December 1952.

Philippe Zoglo, Commandant Paul Milleliri and Herman Egblomassé called on Governor Péchoux at Lomé in November 1952. On their return to Lomé, they told the inhabitants of Litimé that a royal ceremony would be held in honour of Herman Egblomassé on 7 December 1952, and that the Governor would attend in order to announce Herman Egblomassé's appointment as grand Chief of Litimé. The Governor was to come with the Lomé militia band, and the Chief had invited the Alavagnon (British Togoland) band.

All the villagers were displeased and the foreign elders had resolved not to return.

A disturbance was considered likely.

The chiefs of the neighbouring villages were called in and told that the Governor wanted all the chiefs in the Canton of Litimé to be present with a good number of their people; any absentees would smart for it.

Both bands came to the ceremony. The Governor came to Badou with a lorry-load of gardes de cercle and gendarmes. A garde was seriously injured in a motor accident.

At the ceremony, the Governor presented the Chief to the people as planned.

The Chief asked for a photograph to be taken as a souvenir. As the villagers loathed the very sight of the Chief, they left him, having come merely out of curiosity - they would not have otherwise turned up.

The only villagers left with the Chief were:

1. Mr. Mayeboni Egblomassé, Herman Egblomasse's brother,
2. Mr. Dzassayo Koudazé, Herman Egblomassé's cousin, and
3. Mr. Dankoa Gagnan, Herman Egblomassé's sub-chief.

Although in the observations contained in documents T/OBS.7/3, section 10 and Add.1, and T/OBS.7/5 and elsewhere, the Administering Authority opposes our petitions, repudiates them and describes them as mere inventions, it must at least admit the truth of the photographs I am submitting to the United Nations, for I could have found no means of inventing the photographs^{1/} of such a large number of people, including its Governor and Commandant Paul Millerili. (See the writing on the reverse of the photograph).

Chief Kwami Appeti, imprisoned since 13 June 1952, was not tried until May 1953.

He was accused in Court of:

1. Malversation.
2. Theft of taxation money, although the Administrator himself had refused to accept payment in full of the taxes.
3. Breach of trust (unspecified).
4. Usurpation of office, although the Chief whose office he was supposed to have usurped had not even been elected. Can a chief's office be usurped before he is elected?

Kwami Appeti was not released from Lomé Prison until December 1953.

1. Amegbo Amanu, Village Chief of Akposso Klabe Efukpa, was arrested on 14 June 1952 on the same charges. Although he has been in office for thirteen years, the Administration says that he is not recognized. Released in December 1953.
2. Déou Gato, Village Chief of Akposso Oulatsé, arrested on 11 June 1952, same charges, released in December 1953.
3. Christian Gbeadegbe Afola, charges not known to me, released on 5 November 1953.

1/ Note by the Secretariat: The photograph mentioned as an enclosure is kept in the Secretariat's files and will be made available to members of the Trusteeship Council on request.

All the above Chiefs have been replaced by others, who are supporters of the PTP, the choice being made by the Administration.

The Administration charges Théophile Mally with having caused trouble in the Akposso area by persuading the inhabitants to refuse to pay their taxes, whereas the Administration itself refuses to accept the tax-money brought in by the Chief who support the C.U.T.

He was arrested for the first time with Kwami Appeti during the night of 13 June, and released on 14 June 1952.

On 26 August 1952, he was again arrested and imprisoned, and was sentenced on 29 October 1952 to two years' imprisonment and a fine of 30,000 francs. He appealed and was released by the Court at Abidjan.

As petitions T/PET.7/315 and T/PET.7/316 had mentioned him, I sent him a copy of the resolution adopted by the Trusteeship Council concerning the matters raised in those petitions.

I have been able to obtain a copy of the statement he made to his defending counsel at Lomé, Mr. Max Liensol.

I enclose a copy of Théophile Mally's statement^{1/}, the original letter written to me in Ewe by the Conseil Coutumier of Badou, and a translation of it into French.

WHO is Herman Egblomassé, the man being thrust upon the people by the Administration?

Herman Egblomassé is a regular guttersnipe, a bumptious scoundrel and a braggart well-known to the entire population. His evil doings are common talk throughout the Akposso region. So much is known about him that anyone you meet there can tell you about his shortcomings.

As my story seems to be getting too long already, I shall only emphasize a few facts concerning him: the Akpossos at Kessibo, Obrewanko and Badou own a large area of land in British Togoland, where cacao-trees and coffee-shrubs grow. There are constant quarrels between the Akpossos and the Buems.

^{1/} Secretariat note: The enclosures mentioned in the petition are kept in the Secretariat's files and will be made available to members of the Trusteeship Council on request.

According to a statement by Chief Thomas Agbo, Herman Egblomassé's cousin, the Buems have declared that Herman Egblomassé received a fairly large sum of money from them in return for the sale of this land, he having told them that he was the great King of Akposso and could therefore do whatever he liked.

Without further argument, we all believed the statement, because Herman Egblomassé had more than once gone to defend the Buems at the Accra Court, saying that he had inherited the land, and was entitled to lease or sell it to the Buems. I enclose a certified copy of Chief Thomas Agbo's letter to the Governor on this subject.

Not knowing where to hide such a large sum of money, he left some of it in his mother-in-law Igou's room, where it was stolen from him. I. Will the Administration be able to deny that this case of theft is still dragging on in the magistrate's office at Atakpamé? II. Will the Administration be able to deny that a thief was arrested in November 1953 at Lomé, and transferred to Atakpamé, where he is still in prison?

2) He went to Tomegbé in gendarme's uniform on 14 July 1953 on behalf of the Commandant de cercle, and elected Déou Christian as Village Chief of Tomegbé against the will of the people. It is said that he took £ 600 from the Chief for having elected him.

3) Herman Egblomassé appointed Goga Kossi of Anfoe (British Togoland), Paramount Chief or Cantonal Chief of the foreigners in Litimé.

He asked this Chief to contribute a certain sum from the foreign farmers. This sum was handed to Herman Egblomassé. A regular court, where parties found guilty are heavily fined, has been set up at Ibibé.

4) To lodge a complaint against someone with Chief Herman Egblomassé, a party must pay 12 shillings or 420 francs, at the rate of 35 francs to the shilling, or he is not allowed to speak. I shall not even mention the fines ...

5) His father's estate should be divided up between him and his brothers, Alifonu Egblomassé, Voedzo Egblomassé, Mahéboni Egblomassé, Foli Egblomassé and Mathias Agblomassé, but he acted alone and sold all his father's cacao fields to get rich.

6. Mayeboni, Foli and Mathias lodged a complaint against him with Philippe Zoglo and that Administrator, who is still a friend of Egblomassé's prevented his poor brothers from taking action and reduced them to silence. The brothers told me this at Accra.

Herman Egblomassé is having a large two-storey house built at Badou-Togodo with the money he has amassed.

Thousands and thousands of complaints lodged against him have been hushed up by the Administration, because he is an enthusiastic member of the Parti du Progrès, and the members of that party are protected and even paid, as Herman Egblomassé himself used to tell us in his propaganda speeches.

Can the Administration tell us that it is not informed of all Herman Egblomassé's doings at Limité? Can't tell us where he found the money to embark on this large building undertaking, which the large cacao planters could not possibly afford even in their dreams?

(Herman Egblomassé is a member of the Parti du Progrès and, instead of prosecuting him for stealing and swindling, let us present the C.U.T. leaders, who do not steal in order to achieve political success).

Philippe Zoglo is an old Dahoman who has always co-operated with the Administration at Atakpamé. He was due to retire last year or early this year on account of his age, but they have tried to make him out to be younger and keep him in office, in consideration of his allegedly valuable services to the Administration, particularly in Akposso. As he himself boasted to us in Commandant Milleleri's office, he is known in the neighbourhood as the Commandant of the Akpossos.

It has long been noticed that he is suffering from senility, but they have deliberately kept him in office to harm my race.

As I am aware of the tactics of intimidation currently practiced in Togoland, I do not forget that the elders of the Conseil Coutumier, and the people in whose houses I have been looked for, may be compelled to sign a document opposing this petition.

We should like to return to the Territory of Togoland under French Administration but, in view of the letters we receive from our friends, we cannot go back without a safe-conduct from the French representative.

I am not against the Togoland administrators, but am not in favour of the arbitrary arrests and ill-treatment inflicted on my race by the French Administration in Togoland, and particularly on the manner in which it replaces our chiefs by chiefs of its own choosing.

These are our grievances.

I have the honour to be, etc.

(signed) Kwami Thomas