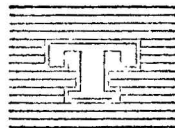


UNITED NATIONS

TRUSTEESHIP
COUNCIL



Distr.
LIMITED

T/COM.7/L.24
8 October 1954
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: FRENCH

COMMUNICATION FROM MR. CHRISTIAN KUWAME CONCERNING
TOGOLAND UNDER FRENCH ADMINISTRATION

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

RASSEMBLEMENT POPULAIRE DES REFUGIES DU TOGO FRANCAIS (R.P.R.T.F.)
P.O. Box 86, Hohoe - TOGOLAND UNDER BRITISH ADMINISTRATION

No. 5/CE-ONU/54

Hohoe, 28 September 1954

From : Paul Y. AGBETETE,
General Secretary of the
R.P.R.T.F.

To:
THE SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE
UNITED NATIONS
New York

Sir,

I have the honour to transmit to you the attached petition from
Mr. Christian KUWAME, General Chairman of the CUT, Litimé Akposso section, a member
of the R.P.R.T.F. and the Chairman of the Kuté branch, who weeping, left his
native soil on 28 August 1952.

On behalf of the association, I should be grateful if you would give this
petition the attention it deserves.

Thanking you in anticipation, I have the honour to be etc.

(signature illegible)

Paul AGBETETE

Christian A. Kuwamé
General Chairman of the CUT
Section of the Canton of Akposso

LITIME

Residing at Kuté
(British Togoland)

c/o Rassemblement Populaire des
Réfugiés du Togo Français

P.O. Box 86, HOHOE

Kuté, 26 September 1954

To the Secretary-General of the United Nations,
New York,

Sir,

I thank you for the attention you were kind enough to give to my petition T/PET.7/357 and have the honour to send you the following observations in order to refute the allegations of Mr. Amah, the Special Representative, according to whom:

I am scarcely qualified to speak about events with which I can be acquainted only by hearsay, even if they actually happened.

I wish to make it quite clear that my place of residence, Kuté, is forty-five minutes' walk from Kpete-Maflo, my native village. Thus I live on the customs border, ten steps from the Menu river, a stream which acts as an artificial border between British and French Togoland. The noise of lorries at Kpete-Maflo is quite audible there. Kuté, too, serves as a main communication centre for the whole of the Akposso, from WOUIME in LIGHE th Lyhe Canton of Palimé to Atakpamé. I deliberately selected this place for the furtherance of my work as General Chairman connected with the general situation in the country, which I left in tears.

1. ... certain arrests recalls the hope expressed in paragraph 2 of the Council's resolution 795 (XII).

There has never been any question of swindling or concerted moves to incite the population collectively to refuse to pay taxes at Kpete-Maflo. I challenge Amah to make me a list of the rebels in question, and I shall submit it to the

people of Kpete-Maflo, who will be the judge. In my petition I mentioned Mr. Soglo of Dahomé, the so-called administrator, leader of the reign of terror. The local Administration obviously does not in the least mind committing abuses of power, as the most horrible crimes committed by certain persons either go unpunished or result in their being awarded the Legion of Honour as a "punishment". Soglo received this decoration in August 1954.

2. The clandestine felling of palm trees is punished by light sentences and has never given rise to any mass imprisonments.

This is a wholly false assertion which I shall bring to the knowledge of the Akposso people, particularly those in the Lighe Canton of Palimé, who were subjected to mass imprisonment on this false pretext. Mr. Djangba and Mr. Agbé were each imprisoned for three months and then, in the belief that they were being harrassed by the Administration, they were obliged to flee.

The increase of the population by 639 inhabitants mostly from Togoland, under British administration, which rules out the prospect of any large present or future emigration.

It is obvious that buyers from the British Zone have tried to purchase land everywhere in the Litimé region where they have managed to stay on despite harrassment. They are staying there temporarily and are pretending to support the Parti du progrès, as YOU MUST PLAY THE ASS TO GET YOUR FEED. I would therefore ask Mr. Amah, the very Special French Representative to the United Nations, never again to try to compare Togoland under British administration, which is something of a heaven, with Togoland under French administration which we find a sort of hell.

3. The Akposso Plateau Subdivision has been issued ninety-five licences, forty-seven for the Canton of Litimé alone.

It is true that certain members of the Progressive Party have obtained rifles in Litimé but forty-seven is really excessive; as compared with twenty rifles for which licences were issued in 1953-1954, of which Administrative Chief Herman received five, no member of the CUT received a single rifle. Why then forty-seven rifles for Litimé alone of the five Akposso Plateau Cantons?

4. The Canton of Litimé has no court competent to impose fines of 80,000 francs or 100 to 200 pounds sterling.

Everyone knows that in the Akposso Canton there are plots with which no one in Togoland can oppose between the local Administration and Mr. Soglo and Mr. Herman. The bigger planters belonging to the CUT who have no rights at all have always preferred to pay fines of even more than 80,000 francs or 100 to 200 pounds sterling to suffering torture and deportation. What is the use of talking about enquiries about a country where the Administration itself is financially corrupt? What about Administrative Chief Herman's mansion; he is not even the fortieth planter in his village?

5. The payment by Agbeteté II to the Chief Subdivisional Inspector of a sum of 600 pounds sterling is something imagined by the petitioner.

What can such an Administration do against so notorious a man as Soglo, whose most horrible crimes have only done no more than earn him the Legion of Honour? Déou Agbeteté II is not libel to talk, as he can pay such a sum, since he is certain to get it back in next to no time by imposing fines at his pleasure.

No one by the name of Goga Kossi has been regularly appointed chief of Canton No. 2 of the Litimé.

The help of the British and, if possible, even of the Germans, who are well acquainted with the geography of Togoland, will be needed to unearth Mr. Goga chief of Canton No. 2 installed at Eletsenu farm, three kilometres from Kpété-Bena.

6. I should like to report to the higher court for its consideration, the incidents of 18 August 1953 and of 31 August 1953, which occurred because of Soglo and his Commandant in connexion with the signature of documents opposing the Joint Council. This happened in the Kpété, Maflo and Anonoe villages.

In conclusion, I should like to stress that:

The whole of Togoland under French administration complains of the statements made to the United Nations, by Mr. Amah, the Special Representative of France and submits the naked truth. Whom is he trying to deceive now?

(a) He has sufficient time in which to prepare his lies.

(b) He is there in person to tell these lies while the petitioner is unheard.

I venture to say: Oh, money, must thou thus drown the conscience of the son of man in the blood of his own poor brothers?

I have the honour to be, etc.

(signed) Christian A. Kuame
Chairman