



UNITED NATIONS
TRUSTEESHIP
COUNCIL



Distr.
LIMITED

T/COM.7/L.58
1 October 1957
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: FRENCH

COMMUNICATIONS FROM MR. LAURENT AKOMATSRI CONCERNING
TOGOLAND UNDER FRENCH ADMINISTRATION

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

Laurent Akomatsri,
Provision merchant, living in the Gnagna quarter,
Atakpamé.

To the Chairman of the United Nations Commission, Atakpamé.

Sir,

As a leader of the political movement Unité togolaise and victim of the election of 3 April 1952, I have the honour on this day of your arrival as a Messiah to relate to you the events which occurred in my home on 31 March 1957, when my party wished to hold a public meeting authorized by the French Administration itself.

The conference had scarcely begun when a gourd filled with bees was tossed into our meeting by the Atakpamé branch of the Parti Togolais du Progrès, followed by a hail of stones.

Mr. Davy, the Administrator-Mayor, appeared and spitefully prevented the cruel behaviour of these members of the Parti Togolais du Progrès who continued their activities without interruption. The Juvento Party members courageously defended themselves and succeeded in driving them back. The Administrator-Mayor returned and declared the immediate adjournment of the meeting.

At the same time I learned that my house had been damaged by the Government party (P.T.P.). I at once hurried to the house and confirmed the fact that the kitchen, the doors and the windows had been damaged; jars, canaries, plates containing water and food, chairs and armchairs were scattered in disorder on the floor of the court yard; a sum of 83,000 francs intended to use in purchasing foodstuffs had disappeared.

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I immediately called the police, who came to make their report but refused to punish the offenders.

A complaint was later filed with the magistrate at Atakpamé, who has likewise turned a deaf ear to it till this day.

The explanation for all this is: they claim that they are now the rulers and the Ministers and that they will stage a blood bath of the nationalists without incurring any responsibility, and that the United Nations is today not competent to handle Togoland matters.

This is the regime to which we are subjected in Togoland because of our wish for the unification of our land and its independence.

Believing that you will give a high priority to my petition, we urgently request that the current Assembly, which has status in name only, be dismissed and replaced by another Legislative Assembly freely elected.

I have the honour, etc.

(Signed) illegible
