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COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF THE "UNITE TOGOLAISE" OF  
AGBANDI CONCERNING TOGOLAND UNDER FRENCH ADMINISTRATION

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of procedure of the Trusteeship Council. Transmitted  
by the United Nations Commission for Togoland under  
French administration, 1957)

Gabriel Olanlo  
Chairman of the Unité togolaise, Ogbandi.

To the Chairman of the United Nations  
Commission on Togoland

Dear Sir,

I should like to draw your attention to the events in the village of Ogbandi provoked by the Blitta police, during your visit on 8 June 1957, five days after your arrival in Togoland.

Mr. Jean L'Abbey, chief of the National Gendarmérie post at Blitta, sent Mr. Gabriel, his subordinate officer, a native of the Ivory Coast, to arrest me and my household, which includes women. These people are the chief members of the C.U.T. party in the village.

Cause: The French representatives here have maltreated many of the people of the village and they do not want me to tell the truth which the United Nations will this time determine once and for all.

He therefore sent his subordinate to me to force me to exhume our customary chief, who was my father and who had been buried for four (4) days. What he asked was contrary to our custom and my older brothers, my younger brothers and myself, i.e. all the family, refused. On the orders of the village chief, the person sent, to wit Mr. Gabriel the gendarme, tried to kill my sons with his pistol, but nobody touched him.

The next day we were all taken off in handcuffs, and placed under guard six (6) days while the police berated us and the chief of the post beat us with his fists and sticks like savage beasts.

I beg you, Mr. Chairman, to relive us of this heavy burden and grant the Independence and Unification of the two Togolands. We do not want internal autonomy in the French Union which Mr. Nicholas Grunizky, the spokesman for the Progress Party, has offered us.

We want the complete independence and unification of the two Togolands.

Ablodé ...

Please save us from the hands of our enemies.

We have the honour to be, etc.

Ogbandi, 21 June 1957

(Signed) Gabriel Olanlo

Chairman

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