

# UNITED NATIONS TRUSTEESHIP COUNCIL



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COMMUNICATION FROM THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE "UNION DES  
POPULATIONS DU CAMEROUN" OF LOUM-CHANTIERS CONCERNING  
THE CAMEROONS UNDER FRENCH ADMINISTRATION

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

Union des Populations du Cameroun  
Kamerun Section of the Rassemblement Démocratique Africain  
Central Committee of the UPC, Loum-Chantiers

To the President of the United Nations,  
New York

Petition

We have considered at a general session the records of the Standing Committee on Petitions. With respect to the incidents which took place in the general area of Loum, the actual number of casualties was possibly over 4,000, as during the weeks preceding the massacres planters were daily finding corpses in their fields; nor does this figure include the dead buried by their families. The official figures, however, place the casualties at less than one-tenth of the true figure. We wish to draw the attention of the representative of the Administering Authority to the fact that their bullets (French offensive weapons) in fact caused greater loss of life wherever they were used, especially at Loum. We would also point out to the Members of the United Nations that, throughout the action, Roland used soldiers armed to the teeth and not merely Kamerun guards. Furthermore, the village of Mombo is eighty-two kilometres from Bonabéri and Loum is 107 kilometres from that point, which means forty-five kilometres beyond Mombo, coming after Ndjoungo, Njombé, Penja and Loum-Chantiers, which are all stations on the northern railway.

We regret that the United Nations is not just a short distance away, so that our people might come forward and clarify the facts as stated in the petitions and denied by Lefèvre when no Kamerunians are present. We also regret that the Trusteeship Council's fully-competent Mission failed to inquire into the events which took place in the Kamerun in May 1955 and April. The United Nations should understand what sort of liar Lefèvre really is and send a special investigating mission to the Kamerun; it would then be in a better position to discuss the matter and decide whether or not the Administering Authority was in fact responsible for those incidents. We regret that all Lefèvre does is to say that these allegations are bereft of all foundation, without offering any concrete evidence. There is still bloodshed in the Kamerun, because the new High Commissioner Messmer incites other Africans against us; only the political maturity of our people prevents a greater disaster.

As regards the inquiries referred to in the Committee on 27 March 1956 (T/C.2/SR.331, pages 3 and 4), it is impossible for the petitioner to leave the bush and return to the Territory, as he would be risking immediate arrest. We consequently support the Soviet Union representative's amendment and assure all the Members of the United Nations that no inquiry has been undertaken by the Administering Authority since the incidents. Furthermore, to complain to the Administering Authority would be completely valueless, as Mr. Barnicaud, in his capacity as Public Prosecutor, stated to the Yaoundé Court that only a test of strength can decide the issue between the UPC and the Administration. Since the incidents, we have seen nothing but arbitrary action, the rule of law having died in the political vacuum. The Trusteeship Council owes it to itself and to the cause of true democracy to investigate the matter properly, in order to stem the threat to international security created by the continued bloodshed in the Cameroons. The threat to the United Nations Charter and the Trusteeship Agreement is even greater. Does not the Council itself encourage the colonialists to kill us? If not, why was the representative of the Administering Authority received while we were refused a hearing? Did not that place the Administering Authority in a privileged position? The United Nations would not have to listen to such lies, if it had previously investigated the situation and had itself obtained the necessary evidence. How can a court do justice when the accused is present but

not the complainant? We do not know whether such a procedure is consistent with the Charter and the Trusteeship Agreement.

A Mission of the Trusteeship Council, enjoying the widest powers, saw fit to hear only those political parties which are legally recognized. This is equivalent to the Trusteeship Council condoning the dissolution of the democratic movements struggling for Kamerun independence. It is also incomprehensible why the same Visiting Mission refused to accept the petitions of the UPC and its allies while in the Kamerun under British administration where those parties are legally recognized.

We would point out to Mr. Scheyven, the member of the Visiting Mission who gave a negative answer to the Indian representative's question whether the Mission had inquired into the events of April and May 1955 in the Kamerun, that he himself witnessed some of the losses caused by the incidents at Loum. It is surprising that he should so support Lefèvre's lies without bothering to inquire into the facts. Mr. Scheyven was presumably himself connected with the police action during the disturbances if he can make such allegations.

The administrative post at Loum is situated at the very end of the indigenous quarter, and the police station, which was surrounded by Saharan troops who prevented the population from seeing the Mission, was the only place where the Mission called.

We protest against the Visiting Mission's policy, which was designed to thwart the legitimate aspirations of a people determined to rid itself of the colonial system, that classic form of slavery.

We protest against the policy of High Commissioner Messmer, who, immediately after the massacres unleashed by Roland, seeks to divide the people, practises racial discrimination and foments inter-African strife along the lines prepared by Mr. Hubert, Chief Regional Officer at Dja-Lobo; their objective is to keep the Kamerun divided into North and South.

Hoping that future discussions will take place in the presence of representatives of the democratic movement, we have the honour to be, etc.

For the Assembly, the Presidium

Ngassa John (Chairman)

Leunché Jean Bonaventure Debandoung (Secretary)

Members: Nzob Pascal, Kouso Suzanne, Fonakm Atanas, Wanté Cathérine,  
Tcheyanou Pierre, Noumbissi Jean

The meeting rose at 1.30 p.m.

Loum-Chantiers, 30 June 1956

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