

UNITED NATIONS
TRUSTEESHIP
COUNCIL



Distr.
LIMITED

T/COM.7/L.54
16 August 1957
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: FRENCH

COMMUNICATION FROM CHIEF AZIABLE WENDELINUS CONCERNING TOGOLAND
UNDER FRENCH ADMINISTRATION

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procedure of the Trusteeship Council)

Note by the Secretariat: This communication was transmitted
to the Secretary-General by the United Nations Commission on
Togoland under French Administration.

Chief Aziable Wendelinus
Village Chief of Lébé (Cercle of Tsévié)

Lébé, 25 June 1957

To the Chairman of the United Nations Visiting Mission to Togoland

Sir,

As you have come to conduct a political inquiry in our country, it is well that we should bring all our political grievances to your attention. That is why I am sending you this petition.

You have surely been told more than once that the local Administration is bringing heavy pressure to bear on people in order to compel them to follow its policies. My own case will be one more living example for you. Having become Chief of my village in 1916, before the final departure of the Germans, I have remained Chief uninterruptedly until the present time. The French Administration has never had anything to reproach me with in the exercise of my duties, but it takes exception to my being a member of the CUT and having refused to resign and join the PTP. That is why my village is being completely neglected and the Administration refuses to pay me any allowance or compensation, while young Chiefs of peoples that are much smaller than mine are being handsomely rewarded in all sorts of ways because they have become members of the PTP and are doing political work in support of the French Administration.

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All the approaches I have made to the Commandants de Cercle have been unsuccessful. I enclose a copy of a letter on the matter which I have just sent to the Minister of the Interior of the independent Government. We hope that the United Nations will find a solution to the political problems of our country so that peace and justice may reign among us.

I have the honour to be, etc.

(Signed) illegible

AZIABLE Wendelinus

Chief Aziable Wendelinus
Village Chief of Lébé (Cercle of Tsévié)

Lébé, 23 June 1957

To the Minister of the Interior,
Independent of Togoland,
Lomé
c/o the Commandant de Cercle of Tsévié.

Sir,

I have the honour to bring the following facts to your kind attention:

Although I am Village Chief of Lébé in the Cercle of Tsévié, I receive no allowance or compensation from the Administration, and yet I am performing all the administrative duties devolving upon me under Order No. 951-49/Apa of 2 December 1949. Some of my colleagues, village chiefs like me, receive allowances. To mention but one example, the Village Chief of Djagblé, whose taxable population is hardly any greater than that of my village, receives 24,000 francs yearly (see the "Journal officiel du Togo" of 16 February 1956, page 211). Such a measure cannot be justified on the grounds of seniority as I have been Village Chief since 1916.

Tax rebates are also paid in full by the Administration to my chefs de quartier so that I receive nothing as compensation.

I have brought my case on many occasions to the notice of the Chief Subdivisional Officers and to the successive Commandants de cercle of Tsévié with no result.

I therefore ask you, Sir, kindly to review my case.

In the hope of receiving a favourable reply, I have the honour to be, etc.

(Signed) illegible
