

UNITED NATIONS
TRUSTEESHIP
COUNCIL



Distr.
LIMITED

T/COM.5/L.177
23 August 1956
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: FRENCH

COMMUNICATION FROM CHIEF MOÏSE LONTSI CONCERNING
THE CAMEROONS UNDER FRENCH ADMINISTRATION

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

T/COM.5/L.177

LONTSI Moïse, Group Chief,
Batcham, near Mbounda, in exile at
Dschang - P.O. Box 57, New-Bell, Douala (Cameroons)

Batcham, 20 July 1956

To the President of the Trusteeship Council, United Nations, New York

Sir,

I acknowledge receipt of your communication of 10 May 1956, T/PET.5/796, in accordance with rule 93 of the rules of procedure of the Trusteeship Council, regarding the resolution adopted by the Council in connexion with petitions directed against the Administering Authority, the records of the public meetings at which my petition was considered and the other documents attached.

The petition of Mr. Lontsi Moïse, Chief of the Batcham Group, concerning the Cameroons under French administration in consultation with France as the Administering Authority concerned (T/PET.5/796, T/OBS.5/71, T/L.634).

Draws the attention of the petitioner to the observations of the Administering Authority and to the statement of its special representative, in particular that:

- (a) no cases of persons killed or wounded were recorded in the Bamiléké region as a result of the May incidents and there was no damage to property at Batcham;
- (b) the petitioner, son of the former customary chief of Batcham, was not deposed from the chieftainship of the village of Batcham, but failed to be elected to that office by the people of the village.

The foregoing resolution was adopted by the Trusteeship Council at its 692nd meeting, on 22 March 1956, by 8 votes to 1, with 1 abstention.

1. Petitions relating to certain incidents that occurred in the Cameroons under French administration in April - May 1955 and the action taken by the Administering Authority.

In reply to your kind communication of 10 May 1955, T/PET.5/796, and my communication of 30 August 1955.^{1/}

I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of these documents but would like at the same time to give you some further details about the various incidents that occurred in the Cameroons under French administration in April - May 1955, and about the wrongful action taken by the Administering Authority with regard to them.

First of all, I should like to explain that the statements of the special representative were poorly contrived on the spot without consultation with the people concerned in the various cantons, or the victims at Batcham, where the serious incidents deplorably took place. Moreover, the Administration of the Territory of the Cameroons obviously could not give you the details because it knows too well its own misdeeds in the matter and would not want to spew out and disclose the blood of the various Cameroonians who died during the month of April - May 1955.

It is a fact that 126 huts were destroyed and eight burned down in the cantons of Batcham, and that much deliberate destruction occurred. Apart from the skirmishing and machine-gun firing throughout the incidents, during Chief Lontsi Moïse's six years of exile the police constantly went about the cantons of Batcham in his absence, to intimidate the people, destroy their houses and provoke various incidents among the peaceful population of Batcham. It is a fact that our brothers and sisters were fired on by the Administering Authorities with the help of innumerable Saharans brought in from Brazzaville by air, at the rate of twenty planes an hour; they invaded various parts of the Territory and caused us unspeakable misery, all at the behest of Mr. Roland Pré, the man responsible for the various crimes which took place, they having firearms while our brothers and sisters went into the battlefield without arms. Since a number of dead and wounded were recorded in the Bamiléké region by the hospitals and clinics and by the justices of Dschang, these things were clear for all to see and so the Administering Authority which is the master and also the author of these multiple crimes must know that the blood of Cameroonians has been flowing on these fronts.

1/ Note by the Secretariat: See T/PET.5/796, resolution 1473 (XVII).

It is a fact, too, that Mr. Lontsi Moïse was formerly the Customary Chief, replacing his father Nkumboc who, on his death-bed, remembered his official position and appointed his son Lontsi Moïse as his successor, and all the notables were present there and subsequently the Administration took note of the fact that he had been designated as official Customary Chief and everyone in Batcham was in agreement.

But soon after 17 August 1948, to the detriment of the people and their Cantonal Chiefs, the Chief of the Bamiléké region and his deputy, accompanied by one Djuatio Etienne, a traitor known to all the people of Batcham as the perpetrator of innumerable crimes committed in his capacity as a French citizen, started a savage war in which I became involved. For the first savage armed war against his neighbours between the two villages of Bangang and Batcham the criminal was condemned to five years' imprisonment and ten years' local banishment and he was exiled to the prison at Bangangté by decision of the Court of Second Degree in the Dschang judicial district. We noticed that many wounded were recorded at that date, more than 680, and many dead, who were not counted. This savage war took place in about August 1946.

Before his five years' imprisonment this man, with the support of the French administration in the Cameroons, treacherously became a French citizen; we were therefore convinced, even before he was put in prison, that the Administration would release him regardless of whether he had atoned for his crimes by his exile in prison at Bangangté. It was for the same reason that our Chief, Lontsi Moïse, was refused the title of Chief of the Batcham Group by the French administration, to the detriment of the notables of his cantons and the unfortunate people, condemned to undergo the miseries which the French administration has inflicted on the Cameroons. After Lontsi Moïse, Chief of the Batcham Group had been condemned to exile, police were sent into the cantons to evict him by force and his chief's house was set on fire and his property destroyed or carried off by the local administration for its own use, at the orders of this man Djuatio Etienne, the author of innumerable crimes. Thus it is that the statements of the special representative were poorly contrived on the spot without consultation with the inhabitants of the cantons and solely at the prompting of his collaborator, Djuatio Etienne who had, moreover, wrongfully been given the chieftdom of Lontsi Moïse because he was a French citizen. The statements of the special

representative were, we have reason to believe, false and illogical. We are sure that our Chief Lontsi Moïse was elected as village chief by the people of Batcham and that he held that office. In addition we have noted that the special representative's statements were quite absurd, and so it is a case of force majeure. We would have you know that before the arrival of the French colonialists in the Cameroons, matters were regulated by customary law; the whole world knows that the Africans were in control before the foxes arrived. We would therefore like to know if the members of the Trusteeship Council want to go on listening to the lies of those who instigated the innumerable incidents which have taken place in all parts of the Territory, from East to West, and from North to South. Countless numbers of our brethren are still held in prison in the Cameroons, others are the subject of unlawful warrants of arrest and many have been in voluntary exile since April-May 1955 in order to escape persecution. Still others, although still free, are constantly threatened; every day we learn of skirmishes here, machine gunning there, and the destruction of houses somewhere else, sometimes going as far as incendiarism.

We should also like to know whether to place any faith in the assertion of the French administration in the Cameroons that it wants to put a stop to these many crimes. We should also like to point out that the United Nations accepted the lies which the special representative of France constantly wove about our petitions, although we said that the members of the Trusteeship Council should not listen to his lies without consulting the petitioners in order to obtain the necessary information and to tear down the barriers which the special representative wanted to erect around these events with a view to confusing the members of the United Nations Trusteeship Council as the French are always wont to do. We would inform them that it is idiotic and vindictive to choose this method of governing the people and of guiding them towards future self-government. There follows a list of the names of the persons involved in the various incidents which took place in April-May at Batcham.

<u>Surnames and first names</u>	<u>Value of articles</u> francs	<u>Surnames and first names</u>	<u>Value of articles</u> francs
Djiadjieu Tchinda	2,756,520	Tefoga	402,715
Nzouatchoum	2,650,400	Takeute Pierre	516,090
Tiwa Moïse	2,105,530	Diffo David	420,870
Djitsop^Njilonyo	1,870,210	Tchofouo Joseph	450,550
Djoutalon	1,859,690	Takala Maurice	395,920
Tassowa	1,422,860	Goula	350,320
Lontsi Jacob	1,271,450	Kemlong	425,000
Lontsi Daniel	1,081,235	Tatio Michel	306,230
Djiodjeu Lucas	100,620	Tchieza Kofi	159,790
Mekem Nofa	946,650	Tedongmo Kounbani	155,485
Mokeu Mayoka	907,120	Tchuata Laketa	342,465
Tafouotsa	849,150	Tejoyim	272,420
Taymata	721,350	Tantsitatang Lamessa	1,453,600
Dia Fouozono	710,840	Tatang Silepa	558,200
Tabantsa	649,925	Lontsi Moïse	20,980,000
			<hr/> 49,140,435

We have the honour to be, etc.

Attached are three photographs,^{1/} a certified true copy of a telegram, and a summons to a hearing of our complaint about these various depredations, in consequence of which we went to the Headquarters of the Mbounda Subdivision, where we submitted convincing proof of our claims.

Lontsi Daniel
Secretary

(Signed) Lontsi Moïse

1/ Note by the Secretariat:

The photographs referred to have been placed in the Secretariat files and are available to members of the Trusteeship Council on request.

Bamiléké Region
Mbouda Subdivision

Republic of France
Liberty - Equality - Fraternity

Special Summons

Mr. LONTSI Daniel, son of Wouamba and of the late Foungouo, born and domiciled at Batcham, Balepa Quarter, is requested to appear at the office of the Mbouda Subdivision upon receipt of this summons, in pursuance of his complaint against Mr. DJUATIO Etienne, Chief of the Batcham Group.

Mbouda, 21 November 1955

(Signed) M. LEGRAND
Chief Subdivisional Officer

TELEGRAM

MR.DELAUNAY MAURICE CHIEF OF THE BAMILEKE REGION DSCHANG

BAMILEKE WELCOME YOU ABOLISH POLITICAL DECISION BY TRAITOR
CHIEF DJUATIO ETIENNE DELIBERATE DESTRUCTION HOUSES INHABITANTS LAST MAY STOP
WHOLE POPULATION BATCHAM IN MOURNING LAST SIX MONTHS CONSIDERS PURPOSE YOUR
ARRIVAL TO PUT A STOP TO QUOTATION OF DOCUMENTS

FOR AND ON BEHALF OF LOMTSI MOÏSE
CHIEF OF GROUP

BATCHAM

P.O. BOX 14 DSCHANG

Batcham, Mbouda, 22 June 1956

We qualified notables and competent peoples being met in traditional general assembly of the Batcham people on 13 June 1956, to take note of a petition from the members affected, under the chairmanship of Mr. Lontsi Moïse, Chief of the Batcham Group, Mbouda.

P.O. Box 14, Dschang

To the Administrator and Chief of the Bamiléké Region,
Dschang
c/o the Examining Magistrate,
Dschang

Sir,

Following this traditional general assembly of the qualified notables and competent peoples of Batcham to take note of a petition from the competent members affected in the matter,

We have the honour to bring to the knowledge of the local administration the following complaint:

Sir,

By decision No. 2966 of the High Commissioner of 28 October 1947, Nkumboc was appointed, with immediate effect, to the post of Chief of the Batcham Group, Mbouda, to Djuatio Etienne sentenced to five years' imprisonment and ten years' solitary confinement for his savage attacks upon neighbouring villages (see records of Court of Second Degree at Dschang, 5 August 1946).

So, while Nkumboc was performing his duty, Mr. Djuatio Etienne was paying for his crimes in Bangangté prison. Shortly afterwards, Nkumboc fell ill and, bearing in mind his post as official Cantonal Chief, on his deathbed he appointed his son Lontchi Moïse to take command and to manage his property and maintain the country in peace, not as a temporary trustee, but as the official holder of the title with the agreement of the deceased man and the competent notables of the canton. Upon the burial of the dead Nkumboc, Mr. Lontchi assumed command as Chief of the Batcham Group.

A disturbing thing happened, however, for without seeking our customary opinion and indeed in our absence, the Chief of the Bamiléké region and his deputy, accompanied by guards and the traitor Djuatio Etienne, came on 17 August 1950 and evicted Mr. Lontchi Moïse by force, set fire to his chief's house, and took all his possessions for the benefit of the traitor Djuatio Etienne, the perpetrator of innumerable crimes. We made investigations and hoped to win an appeal lodged with the local administration of this Region, but our proceedings were in vain and Mr. Lontchi Moïse has been in exile for six years now; moreover, the Administration sent us the Journal Officiel of 22 July 1950, on page 997 of which is to be found a decision in favour of the traitor Djuatio Etienne entitling him forcibly to assume the post of Chief of the Batcham Group, no account being taken of his crimes, but only of the fact of his being a French citizen.

Sir, it is a fact that before the arrival of the Whites in the Cameroons we were in command, and we beg you to show understanding and to carry out an investigation among the peoples concerned; we earnestly beg you to repeal or annul the brutal decision on page 997 of the Journal Officiel of 22 July 1950 and to reinstate Mr. Lontchi Moïse as Chief of the Batcham people.

You will find below a list of the competent members to whom you may apply for details about the seventy houses destroyed by the traitor Djuatio Etienne during May 1955. We hope that you will repair urgently to Batcham because much of the community's property has been destroyed by a group of regional guards accompanied by the traitor Djuatio Etienne.

Per procuracionem:

<u>Surnames and first names</u>	<u>Quarters</u>
1. Tchouffouo	Bamentou
2. Tama	"
3. Tcheadje Tchinda	Batio
4. Djiadjeu Lucas	Batchuatio
5. Djisop Djilonyo	"
6. Tedongap Kemlon	Balatchua
7. Djou Talong	"
8. Mokeu Moyoka	Batchuatio

Surnames and first names (continued)

Quarters

9. Kuenona	Batchuatio
10. Taymdjieu	Bameka
11. Tatsafo	"
12. Goula	Balepa
13. Takola Maurice	Balatchua
14. Taymata	"
15. Tanwa Golip	"
16. Tassonwa	Fiala
17. Dia Fouano	Bataki
18. Fomena Jean	Badendang
19. Djou Samuel	Bataki
20. Louanhoun	Baboue
21. Teyou	"
22. Tametang Mone	"
23. Goula Mayoka	Bamelang
24. Mekemdjiza	"
25. Djitsakang	Bambi
26. Djigouon	Batim
27. Tanewana	Balepa
28. Dikko David	Fiala
29. Kentsop	Balakam
30. Fouodjogap	Baletsi
31. Sadow	"
32. Talasimi	Batchuati
33. Tembo	Banugo
34. Tetadjo	Batoutsa
35. Kuete Sao	Balatchua
36. Tabantsa	"
37. Lontsi Daniel	Balepa
38. Fouoaku	Baku
39. Tafoga	Balepfo
40. Meane Luc	"
41. Lontsi Jacob	Balutchua

<u>Surname and first names (continued)</u>	<u>Quarters</u>
42. Tenetching André	Balutchua
43. Sob-Longoum André	"
44. Tchieja Koffi	Baleghang
45. Tchioloua Joseph	Batoutsa
46. Tafouotsa	Batio
47. Takwe Pierre	"
48. Tiwa Moïse	Fiala
49. Tadiana	"
50. Fouoti	Batchuati
51. Sadio Lontse	Bamebeu
52. Djimesse	Bamego
53. Teno	Bameleu
54. Djiepiata	"
55. Zuegang	Bameka
56. Tchinda Sama	Bamedou
57. Sop-Touplapa	Bagouang
58. Ngoumtso Sama	Balepa
59. Takoudjou	"
60. Woumessop Tchounda	"

Trusting that this petition will receive special attention from your services and that we shall soon obtain complete satisfaction, we have the honour to be, etc.

Attached: Certified true copy of medical certificate of 2 February 1956

(Signed) by Lontsi Moïse,
Chief of Batcham Group, Mbouda
P.O. Box 14,
Dschang

(Signed) Lontsi Daniel
Secretary of the Meeting

Cameroons under French administration
Department of Health
Bamiléké Region
Schang Hospital

Republic of France
Liberty - Equality - Fraternity

Medical certificate

I the undersigned, Dr. Pelon Robert, Regimental Medical Officer,
Colonial Forces, Chief Medical Officer of the Bamiléké region at Dschang, certify
that I have this day examined the bearer,

Djoutalong, of the village of Batcham and have noted the following conditions:

- Superficial wounds on the face and head (frontal region) produced by a
blunt instrument with sharp ridges.

- A deep injury, resulting from the same cause, to the left chest wall,
inducing a traumatic pneumonia with ensuing pleural effusion.

Subject detained in hospital from 10 to 20 January 1956.

Dschang, 2 February 1956

Certified true copy
