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COMMUNICATION FROM MR. THOMAS AGBO, CHIEF AT
AKPOSSO-MENOUSSOU CONCERNING TOGOLAND UNDER
BRITISH AND TOGOLAND UNDER FRENCH ADMINISTRATION

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

Thomas Agbo, Chief at AKPOSSO-MENOUSSOU,
Post Office Box 54, KADZABI, - TOGOLAND
via ACCRA - GOLD COAST.

ACCRA, 21 April 1953

To the GOVERNOR,
COMMISSAIRE DE LA REPUBLIQUE AU TOGO,
LOME.

Sir,

The entire Litime people, under its great chief the late EGBLOMASSE DZAVON, appointed me to act as chief and representative of all the AKPOSSO before the judicial authorities of the GOLD COAST for the purpose of settling all differences between the AKPOSSO and the BUEM concerning a largish stretch of land situated in the British zone, which the British and French authorities recognize as AKPOSSO property.

Some two-thirds of this land belongs to the AKPOSSO of KESSIBO and ABUWANKO. These two villages have their largest cocoa plantations in the British zone. The elders and chiefs of KESSIBO and ABREWANKO, together with all their people, appointed Mr. ABADI specially to assist me in my great task.

ABADI died in 1950 and his place was taken by KOMLA AHOSSOU AND OBAKOU DZENA, who are with me at present at AKPOSSO-MENOU.

After the death of its chief, EGBLOMASSE DZAVON, the Litimé people confirmed my mandate and asked me to approach the "LOCAL COUNCIL" of the British Government on its behalf with a request that the AKPOSSO be allowed to enter their domain and throw off the yoke of their enemies, the BUEM.

It was because of this that on 7 April 1953, the Government sent two representatives, Mr. ASSARI and Mr. OSEI, to visit the people and to receive petitions.

DANKOA GAGBAGNA, at the head of our enemies, YAWU ANSA, chief of the village of AHAMASSOU, KOMLA TUTULUTOU, MENSA, brother of the chief of QAPASSI, and another whose name I do not know, addressed the people assembled in the market-place of AKPOSSO-MENOU to receive the two representatives, and said: "I have been sent by my chief, HERMAN EGBLOMASSE, to put an end to this reception you are holding. HERMAN EGBLOMASSE, has made over all the AKPOSSO land to the BUEM (enemies) to do with as they will. If you propose to do anything on the land you must advise them first."

We replied to him: "We are not on HERMAN EGBLOMASSE DZAGOU's land or on land belonging to EGBLOMASSE DZAVON or the BUEM, but on the property of the AKPOSSO of Litimé." All the people shouted at him and he went away very ashamed. Afterward, he visited the BUEM chiefs and on HERMAN's orders, encouraged them to follow us and even to drive us from the land by force.

In addition, on the French side, he asked the BADOU gardes de cercle to hide on the bank of the river DZIDI and arrest anyone who came from BADOU to the reception organized at MENUSO; thus, for fear of being persecuted without reason, no one from the village of BADOU came to the meeting.

He defends the BUEM before the court at ACCRA because he received a large sum from them for promising to sell them our plantations and other land which is not yet cultivated. It was part of this money that was stolen at BADOU from the bedroom of his mother-in-law, IGOU, a case with which the ATAKPAME court is familiar.

Notice how HERMAN EGBLOMASSE wants at all costs to sell a large piece of land, a valuable possession of all the AKPOSSO, to another race, in order to enrich himself and bring about a real war between us and the BUEM, such as that which

took place years ago, during the reign of APPETI I, between us and the ASHANTI over the same question of land.

HERMAN still says that this piece of land is his property.

How can that be? Did he buy it? If so, from whom? Can he show us a title deed? We have known great chiefs at Litimé, chiefs such as IWU of Kessibo, APPETI I of Badou, ADAM and EGBLOMASSE DZAVON, but none of these great chiefs ever tried to sell or make over this large property to another race, or said that it was his personal possession or property.

It is clear that one chief cannot occupy two thrones at the same time. If HERMAN DZAGOU is chief on the French side he cannot be chief on the British side, and his rights do not extend much beyond the frontier. That is why the AKPOSSO chose another chief to occupy the throne on the British side.

We never chose HERMAN DZAGOU EGBLOMASSE as chief of BADOU or of whole Litimé region.

The entire Litimé people is unhappy that a chief such as this should have been placed on the throne of BADOU by the French Government in TOGOLAND on 10 October 1952 and confirmed on 7 December 1952.

I have the honour to be, etc.

Thomas AGBO (finger print)

- (1) THOMAS AGBO
- (32) AHOSSOU KOMLA (two finger prints)
- (3) BAKOU DZENA

Copies to

The Governor
The Governor at Abidjan
The Commandant at Atakpamé
The Governor at Accra
Minister of Local Council
Mr. Phillippe Zoglo, Commandant de cercle, Atakpamé

The Procureur at Abidjan
De Gaulle, Paris
United Nations
The Procureur at Accra
