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COMMUNICATION FROM MR. GOMTSE MOSSI NGUILA CONCERNING  
THE CAMEROONS UNDER FRENCH ADMINISTRATION

(Circulated in accordance with rule 24 of the rules  
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Mr. GOMTSE MOSSI NGUILA  
Former Clerk in the Post Office, Telephone  
and Telegraph Department, Autonomous Chief  
of the autonomous Village of Nguila  
(Mbam Region),  
Cameroons.

Nguila, 31 January 1959

Holder of the Mérite camerounais, third class.

To the Prime Minister, Head of the Government of the Cameroons,  
Minister of the Interior, at YAOUNDE

c/o the Chief of the NTUI Subdivision  
c/o the Chief of the MBAM Region at BAFIA

Sir,

I am writing to you on my own behalf and on behalf of all the Vouté inhabitants of the Autonomous Chiefdom of Nguila, whom I have the honour to govern in accordance with tradition and to the general satisfaction, to reiterate the appeal addressed to you on 10 June 1958 to transfer the small segment of the Vouté people of Nguila, who have been arbitrarily handed over to Ntui, back to their original administrative unit, which is the Yoko Subdivision of the Voutés.

MOTION

Considering that the demographic population of the Yoko Subdivision of the Voutés is already so under-privileged from the political, economic, social, humanitarian and cultural points of view that it should not be pitilessly whittled down by the removal of indigenous elements;

Considering that for very many years Nguila was directly under the control of Yoko, which was then one of the most important regional centres in the Cameroons;

Considering that the Voutés of Nguila will not much longer allow themselves to remain criminally separated from their ethnic brethren at Yoko merely in order to satisfy the infamous fancies of some inveterate demagogue who is constantly seeking to expand his constituency;

Considering that it would be a flagrant and all too blatant injustice if, after the Prime Minister and the members of his Government went to the solemn inauguration of the Yambassas' Subdivision at Bokito on 12 September 1958 and of the Sanagas' Subdivision at Ntui on 13 September 1958 and spoke of "tribal units in the MBAM region", the noble Babouté tribe alone should be split up and parcelled out in small minorities so as to increase the intervention of other tribal blocs in the scattered Vouté tribe and thus to allow each and every one to exercise hegemony while the great Babouté race declines;

Considering that, with the clear demarcation of the administrative units of the Yambassas' Subdivision on the one hand and the Sanagas' Subdivision on the other, Mr. Ahidjo, the Prime Minister, and his Ministers have achieved the miracle of smoothing out long-standing ancestral tribal quarrels;

That, as a result, in the Mbam Region, which comprises five large main tribes, the Yambassas form a single Subdivision (Bokito), the Sanagas have their Subdivision (Ntui), the Bafias have theirs (Bafia), and the Banens have theirs (Ndikinvimeki);

That of the five only the Babouté tribe is still deprived of its rights because it is arbitrarily subdivided;

Considering that it would be absurd and illogical that the very reasons which governed the ethnic regrouping of the other tribes should no longer apply in the case of the equally valid interests of the Babouté tribe, which has no basic unit other than the Yoko Subdivision;

Considering that the autonomous Chiefdom of Nguila bestrides the boundaries of the Yoko and the Ntui Subdivisions;

Considering that in view of this favourable position, there are no geographic or land problems to prevent the normal inclusion of the autonomous village of Nguila in the Yoko Subdivision;

/...

Considering that it is Forty-six kilometres from the Ntui Subdivision to the last house in the autonomous Chiefdom of Nguila;

That neither the Mfou Subdivision (Nyong et Sanaga), which lies only two kilometres from Yaoundé, i.e. from the Djongolo Subdivision, nor the Ntui Subdivision, which lies across two rivers and extends to less than ten kilometres from Bafia, are examples which certain big-wigs can invoke in order to oppose the immediate inclusion of the autonomous Babouté village of Nguila in the Babouté Subdivision of Yoko;

Considering that, before striving for national unity from North to South and from East to West of our State, thought must be given to uniting all the CAMEROONIAN clans among themselves, for they are the basis for any general union and on them will depend the coalescence of this great CAMEROONIAN national family, which should not be an empty word;

Considering that there can be no unity with outside elements so long as there are still internal rifts;

That, save for secret purposes that cannot be admitted, it is absolutely useless to try to build major groupings so long as the small groupings of which they are formed are not homogeneous;

The peoples of the autonomous and traditional Chiefdom of Nguila, rallying as one man round their Chief;

Welcome the full internal autonomy vested in the Head of the Government of the Cameroons in 1959;

Express the hope that the Prime Minister will put this autonomy to good use in order to correct certain measures of extortion planned long in advance by our local politicians about whose increasing unpopularity and lack of success there can no longer be the shadow of a doubt;

Urge the Head of the Government of the Cameroons to come to the assistance of the Babouté people in the Yoko Subdivision in general and at Nguila in particular, in this his first year of office, as he implied at Ntui on 13 September 1958 that he would, and to take all appropriate steps to improve the economic, social and demographic situation of these Cameroonians who have been left outside the general Cameroonian community;

/...

Call for the promulgation of an amendment to the Decree delimiting the Ntui Subdivision with a view to including the autonomous village of Nguila in the Yoko Subdivision without further ado;

Note that, since the Cameroons will inevitably have to establish other administrative units at a later date, this would certainly avoid unnecessary but serious complications in the regional politics of MBAM.

COPIES TO

Prime Minister

Minister of the Interior

Chief of the Ntui Subdivision

Chief of the Yoko Subdivision

Chief of the Nango-Nboko Subdivision

Chief of the Mbam Region

President of ALCAM

High Commissioner

Minister for Overseas France, Paris VII

United Nations Trusteeship Council, New York

Secretary-General of the United Nations, New York

Press

President of the National Council of Customary and Traditional Chiefs,  
Mr. BETOTE Akwa

Ernest, ALCAM, Yaoundé

General Chairman UNATRACAM, P.O. Box 150, YAOUNDE

Signatures follow:

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