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COMMUNICATION FROM THE NATIONAL SECRETARY OF JUVENTO CONCERNING
TOGOLAND UNDER BRITISH AND FRENCH ADMINISTRATION

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

THE JUVENTO NATIONAL COMMITTEE
DEPARTMENT OF NATIONAL ORGANIZATION

P.O.Box 260 - LOME
(Togoland, West Africa)
No.5/PMR/55

R E S O L U T I O N

ADDRESSED TO MR. JEAN BERARD, ACTING
COMMISSIONER OF THE FRENCH REPUBLIC
IN EASTERN TOGOLAND, LOME, AND TO
SIR CHARLES NOBLE ARDEN-CLARKE,
BRITISH GOVERNOR OF THE GOLD COAST
AND WESTERN TOGOLAND, ACCRA

CONCERNING DISMISSED WORKERS,
RACIAL DISCRIMINATION AND
SOCIAL JUSTICE IN TOGOLAND

The JUVENTO

Considering the purposes of the San Francisco Charter, the Trusteeship System and the Trusteeship Agreements relating to dependent territories, namely, the political, economic and social advancement of such territories;

Considering that the objectives laid down in the afore-mentioned international agreements cannot be attained without the effective co-operation of the indigenous inhabitants of the territories concerned and that,
IN ORDER TO SECURE EMANCIPATION, TOGOLAND NEEDS ITS CHILDREN;

Considering that, FOR POLITICAL REASONS, Togoland has been appointed to posts outside Togoland, the country being thus drained of the most advanced elements of its population;

Considering the arbitrary dismissals purportedly on account of "serious official misconduct" or "abolitions of posts" of which the nationalists in eastern Togoland under French Trusteeship have been the principal victims AND THE PURELY POLITICAL CHARACTER OF WHICH WAS CLEARLY PROVED BY THEIR EXTENSIVE SCALE, THEIR FREQUENCY AND THE PERIOD OF TENSION DURING WHICH THEY WERE CARRIED OUT;

Considering that an individual's political opinions should not affect his professional position except where the national interest is at stake and that THE ADMINISTERING POWERS IN TOGOLAND CANNOT USE THE NATIONAL INTEREST AS AN ARGUMENT JUSTIFYING ACTION AGAINST THE INDIGENOUS INHABITANTS, SINCE THOSE POWERS DO NOT REPRESENT THE NATIONAL TOGOLAND GOVERNMENT;

Considering that all workers have the right to engage in political activities outside their working hours, that "EVERYONE HAS THE RIGHT TO FREEDOM OF THOUGHT, CONSCIENCE AND RELIGION" and that "EVERYONE HAS THE RIGHT TO FREEDOM OF OPINION AND EXPRESSION", this right including "FREEDOM TO HOLD OPINIONS WITHOUT INTERFERENCE" (Articles 18 and 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights);

Considering that these same rights should be accorded to officials, who should not be treated as "second-class citizens" and are in fact enjoyed by officials whose views are favourable to the political aims of the Administering Powers and who exercise them even during working hours without detriment to themselves;

Formally repudiating the deficit of 400,000,000 francs CFA with which the budget of eastern Togoland for 1953 has been burdened;

Drawing the attention of the authorities to the need for the conscientious administration of public funds, for their application solely to purposes which are genuinely in the national interest of the Territory and for the fostering of the economy as a means of promoting social development, which in turn is the key to civilization, the gauge of world progress;

Considering the difficulties which the banks established in eastern Togoland normally place in the way of African clients;

Considering the cruelly heavy taxes and levies at present imposed on African workers in eastern Togoland, which, together with the forced unemployment due to dismissals from the service, are resulting in their ruin;

Considering the failure of the appeals to the administrative disputes court made by some of the dismissed officials and the delay in handling their complaints;

Considering that, side by side with these unjustified and inhuman dismissals and with the equally unjustified expatriations clumsily described as "postings required by the exigencies of the service", which have affected only nationalist Africans in eastern Togoland, many Europeans are being settled in the Territory and given employment;

DENOUNCING SUCH MANOEUVRES AS GLARING PROOF OF THE SECRET PURPOSE UNDERLYING COLONIZATION - THE SETTLEMENT OF THE DEPENDENT TERRITORIES BY THE RULING RACES WITH THE MORE OR LESS BRUTAL EXCLUSION OF THE INDIGENOUS RACES;

Knowing that such an attitude cannot be tolerated under any circumstances and is furthermore at variance with the principles of colonial development, human rights, the San Francisco Charter and the Atlantic Pact which provide that NO PEOPLE HAS THE RIGHT TO DOMINATE ANOTHER;

Considering that any attack upon the well-being of an individual or on the economic development or equilibrium of a country constitutes an attack on the life of that individual or country;

CONSIDERING THAT SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC INJUSTICE AND INEQUALITY ARE THE CHIEF CAUSE OF POLITICAL UNREST;

THAT INDIVIDUAL LIBERTY AND SOCIAL JUSTICE ARE THE PREREQUISITES OF ALL TRUE DEMOCRACY, as stated in the resolution of the national congress of the League for the Rights of Man held in France in 1947 (Report by Mr. René GEORGES-ETIENNE, barrister-at-law, Vice-President of the League).

FOR THESE REASONS

I. DENOUNCES THE DISMISSALS AND OTHER SIMILAR MEASURES TAKEN AGAINST THE NATIONALISTS IN EASTERN TOGOLAND UNDER FRENCH TRUSTEESHIP AS BEING VIOLATIONS OF UNDERTAKINGS GIVEN BY THE FRENCH NATION AND OF THE UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS.

II. LIKEWISE DENOUNCES THE ARBITRARY APPOINTMENTS OF TOGOLAND WORKERS TO POSTS OUTSIDE THEIR COUNTRY, THIS DENUNCIATION INCLUDING THOSE MADE AT THE REQUEST OF THE OFFICIALS CONCERNED FOR THE PURPOSE OF EVADING THE THREAT OF POLITICAL REPRESSION.

III. DEMANDS:

- (a) THE IMMEDIATE REINSTATEMENT, WITHOUT SPECIAL FORMALITIES, OF THE OFFICIALS AND OTHER WORKERS WHO WERE DISMISSED, SUSPENDED ETC., AND THE PAYMENT OF THE ARREARS OF THEIR WAGES OR SALARIES.
- (b) THE IMMEDIATE REPATRIATION OF WORKERS APPOINTED TO POSTS OUTSIDE THEIR COUNTRY EXCEPT WHERE THIS IS CONTRARY TO THEIR OWN WISHES.
- (c) THE COMPLETE CESSATION OF ALL REPRESSIVE MEASURES TAKEN AGAINST THE WORKERS FOR POLITICAL REASONS AND, IN PARTICULAR, THE REFUSAL TO RENEW PERMITS, DISMISSALS, ETC. AND EXPATRIATIONS.
- (d) THAT THE TRADE UNION FEDERATION SHOULD IN FUTURE BE CONSULTED REGARDING DISMISSAL, TERMINATION OR OTHER SIMILAR MEASURES.
- (e) THE REDUCTION OF TAXES OF ALL TYPES, THE INTRODUCTION OF A SYSTEM OF TAXATION BASED ON THE INCOME AND FAMILY SITUATION OF THE TAXPAYER.
- (f) THE INSTITUTION OF A LESS SEVERE SYSTEM OF DISTRAINT AND OF ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE SALE OF DISTRAINED PROPERTY IN CONSULTATION WITH THE AFFECTED PERSONS AND WITH EXPERTS COMPETENT TO ESTIMATE ITS VALUE.
- (g) THE EXEMPTION OF DISMISSED PERSONS FROM DISTRAINT AND FROM THE PAYMENT OF TAXES EXCEPT CONSUMPTION TAXES ON WATER, LIGHT, ETC.

IV. DEMANDS RESPECT FOR THE POLITICAL OPINIONS OF ALL OFFICIALS AND WORKERS WITHOUT EXCEPTION AND FULL RECOGNITION OF THEIR RIGHT TO ATTEND AT AND PARTICIPATE FULLY IN POLITICAL ACTIVITIES OUTSIDE WORKING HOURS.

V. FORMALLY PROTESTS AGAINST THE DISCRIMINATORY TREATMENT WHICH THE BANKS RESERVE FOR AFRICANS.

VI. SIMILARLY PROTESTS AGAINST THE RACIAL DISCRIMINATION IN FAVOUR OF THE WHITE RACE SHOWN BY CERTAIN SERVICES AND FIRMS IN THE RECRUITMENT OF THEIR STAFF.

REQUESTS THAT THE NUMBER OF WHITE WORKERS EMPLOYED IN SUCH SERVICES AND FIRMS SHOULD BE REDUCED BY AT LEAST ONE-HALF AND THAT SUCH WORKERS SHOULD BE REPLACED BY TOGOLANDERS AND AFRICANS.

VII. REQUESTS THAT, IF THE CLUB KNOWN AS THE "UNION TOGOLAISE" AT LOME CONTINUES TO BE RESERVED FOR EUROPEANS AND PERSONS RANKING AS SUCH, ITS NAME SHOULD BE SUITABLY ALTERED IN ORDER TO AVOID MISLEADING TOURISTS.

IN THE EVENT OF ITS CONTINUING TO BE SO RESERVED, DECLARES ITSELF OPPOSED TO ANY GRANT OF PUBLIC FUNDS TO THE CLUB AS WELL AS TO ALL OTHER DISCRIMINATORY ESTABLISHMENTS.

VIII. REQUESTS THE ADMINISTERING AUTHORITIES AND THE AGENCIES RESPONSIBLE TO GIVE INSTRUCTIONS AND TAKE IMMEDIATE AND ENERGETIC STEPS AGAINST THE "COLOUR BAR", WHICH IS APPLIED IN TOGOLAND:

- (a) IN THE RECRUITMENT OF WORKERS
- (b) IN THE ASSIGNMENT OF PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES
- (c) IN REGARD TO ENTRY TO PUBLIC ESTABLISHMENTS
- (d) IN THE SEATING OF WORSHIPPERS IN PLACES OF RELIGIOUS WORSHIP

IX. REQUESTS THE ADMINISTERING AUTHORITIES AND THE AUTHORITIES OF THE VARIOUS ORGANIZATIONS ESTABLISHED IN TOGOLAND TO PROCEED FORTHWITH AND IN GOOD FAITH TO THE AFRICANIZATION OF PERSONNEL AND SERVICES, HAVING REGARD TO THE PURPOSE OF THE INTERNATIONAL TRUSTEESHIP SYSTEM IN VIRTUE OF WHICH THE COUNTRY WAS ENTRUSTED TO FRANCE AND THE UNITED KINGDOM.

X. IN ACCORDANCE WITH ITS OPTIMISTIC OUTLOOK, IS CONFIDENT IN ADVANCE THAT THE TWO COUNTRIES RESPONSIBLE WILL GIVE PROOF OF THEIR GOODWILL AND GOOD FAITH BY MEETING THESE CLAIMS IN REGARD TO THE MATTERS WITH WHICH EACH IS CONCERNED.

XI. STATES THAT THIS RESOLUTION IS ALSO ADDRESSED TO THE SENIOR OFFICIALS WHO MAY SUCCEED MR. JEAN BERARD AND SIR CHARLES NOBLE ARDEN-CLARKE.

XII. RESERVES THE RIGHT TO PROMULGATE THIS RESOLUTION WHEREVER IT MAY BE REQUIRED.

Done at Lomé, 10 May 1955
FOR THE JUVENTO EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE,
(Signed) NAPO BADJI (Seal of the JUVEN
NATIONAL SECRETARY

Copies to:

1. The Representative Assembly, Lomé.
 2. The Trade Union Federation, Lomé.
 3. The Ministry for Overseas France, Paris.
 4. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Paris.
 5. The Delegates of Togoland in the Gold Coast Legislative Assembly.
 6. The Regional Officer, Ho.
 7. The Colonial Office, London.
 8. The Chamber of Commerce, Lomé.
 9. The Chamber of Commerce, Accra.
 10. All firms and organizations established in Togoland.
 11. The United Nations, New York.
 12. The Trusteeship Council, New York.
 13. The National Association for the Advancement of Colored Peoples.
 14. The League for the Rights of Man.
 15. His Holiness the Pope, Rome.
 16. The Very Reverend Pastor LA GRAVIERE, Paris.
 17. Mr. Theodore O. ASARE, New York.
 18. JUVENTO, Social Welfare Department, Lomé.
 19. JUVENTO, Labour Department, Lomé.
 20. JUVENTO, Eastern Divisional Committee, Lomé.
 21. JUVENTO, Western Divisional Committee, Hohoe.
 22. JUVENTO, Comités Centraux extra togolais, Hohoe.
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