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PETITIONS CONCERNING THE TRUST TERRITORY OF
TOGOLAND UNDER BRITISH ADMINISTRATION

Draft Report of the Standing Committee on Petitions

Chairman: Mr. Michel de CAMARET (France)

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Note by the Secretariat: In order to avoid unnecessary duplication of material which has been already circulated in mimeographed form, the present draft report contains only the material to be added to that contained in the Secretariat working paper (T/C.2/L.235) and the draft resolutions. The original material should be considered as forming part of the draft, except where otherwise indicated.]

1. At its 394th, 396th and meetings on 18, 20 and July 1956, the Standing Committee on Petitions, composed of the representatives of Belgium, Burma, China, France, the United States of America and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, examined the petitions concerning the Trust Territory of Togoland under British administration which are listed in the preceding table of contents.
2. Mr. T.A. Mead participated in the examination as the special representative of the Administering Authority concerned.
3. The Standing Committee submits herewith to the Council its report on these petitions and recommends, in accordance with rule 90, paragraph 6, of the Council's rules of procedure, that the Council decide that no special information is required concerning the action taken on resolution....

I. Petition from Mr. Kwasi Ampim (T/PET.6/346)

10. The petition was examined and discussed at the 394th and meetings of the Standing Committee (documents T/C.2/SR.394 and).
11. The special representative reiterated what had been stated in the observations of the Administering Authority, namely, that the petitioner had been advised that it was still open to him to take his case to the Akpini State Council and thereafter, if not satisfied, he could appeal to the Governor.
12. At its meeting, the Committee approved by votes to with abstention draft resolution I, annexed to the present report, which it recommends that the Council adopt.

I. Petition from Mr. Kwasi Ampim (T/PET.6/346)

The Trusteeship Council,

Having examined the petition from Mr. Kwasi Ampim concerning Togoland under British administration in consultation with the United Kingdom as the Administering Authority concerned (T/PET.6/346, T/OBS.6/17, T/L.),

Draws the attention of the petitioner to the observations of the Administering Authority and to the statement of its special representative, in particular that it is still open to him to take his case to the Akpini State Council and if not satisfied, he could appeal thereafter to the Governor.

II. Petition from Mr. Kofi Tsama (T/PET.6/347)

7. The petition was examined and discussed at the 394th and meetings of the Standing Committee (documents T/C.2/SR.394 and).
8. The special representative pointed out, with reference to paragraph 3 above, that the petitioner may have misunderstood a pronouncement to the effect that control of the public service in the Gold Coast would be transferred as from 1 June 1955 from the Governor to the Public Service Commission. Such action did not affect the public service in the Trust Territory.
9. The special representative stated that the pamphlet was seized under a legal ordinance but that the Administration did not intend to pursue the matter nor to prosecute the petitioner for having printed the pamphlet.
10. At its meeting, the Committee approved by votes to with abstention draft resolution II, annexed to the present report, which it recommends that the Council adopt.

III. Petition from Mr. Kofi Tsama (T/PET.6/347)

The Trusteeship Council,

Having examined the petition from Mr. Kofi Tsama concerning Togoland under British administration in consultation with the United Kingdom as the Administering Authority concerned (T/PET.6/347, T/OBS.6/15, T/L.),

1. Draws the attention of the petitioner to the observations of the Administering Authority and to the statement of the special representative in particular that the Administration does not intend to pursue the matter and that he is not going to be prosecuted for having printed the pamphlet;
2. Decides that no further action is called for on the part of the Council.

III. Petition from Mr. Gilbert Kpeglo (T/PET.6/348)

8. The petition was examined and discussed at the 396th and meetings of the Standing Committee (documents T/C.2/SR.396 and).
9. The special representative stated that, for the purposes of an election campaign, it was the responsibility of independent candidates to select a symbol from a list put forward by the Administration. It was unfortunate in the present case that the Returning Officer had failed promptly to detect the error which had been made by the petitioner in selecting a symbol which had already been allocated to a political party. The Administration is under no obligation, however, to reimburse a candidate for expenses incurred during an election campaign.
10. At its meeting, the Committee approved by votes to with with abstention draft resolution III, annexed to the present report, which it recommends that the Council adopt.

III. Petition from Mr. Gilbert Kpeglo (T/PET.6/348)

The Trusteeship Council,

Having examined the petition from Mr. Gilbert Kpeglo concerning Togoland under British administration in consultation with the United Kingdom as the Administering Authority concerned (T/PET.6/348, T/OBS.6/14, T/L.),

1. Draws the attention of the petitioner to the observations of the Administering Authority and to the statement of its special representative, in particular, that it is the responsibility of independent candidates to select a symbol from a list-put forward by the Administration and that the Administration is under no obligation to reimburse a candidate for expenses incurred during a political campaign; and
2. Decides that no further action is called for on the part of the Council.

IV. Petition from Mrs. Clementine Adzoa Dumoga (T/PET.6/349)

7. The petition was examined and discussed at the 396th and meetings of the Standing Committee (documents T/C.2/SR.396 and).
8. The special representative stated that the petitioner's husband had never been dismissed but that he was reinstated immediately after he was released from prison where he was detained under sentence for seven days while deciding to make an appeal. He could have appealed to the manager of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church concerning the non-payment of his salary for the period which he spent in prison and, in case of conflict, he could have instituted a case in the courts. The petitioner's husband had not been demoted for misappropriating funds but for having misapplied monies belonging to the Church.
9. At its meeting, the Committee approved by votes to with abstention draft resolution IV, annexed to the present report, which it recommends that the Council adopt.

IV. Petition from Mrs. Clementine Adzoa Dumoga (T/PET.6/349)

The Trusteeship Council,

Having examined the petition from Mrs. Clementine Adzoa Dumoga concerning Togoland under British administration in consultation with the United Kingdom as the Administering Authority concerned (T/PET.6/349, T/OBS.6/15, T/L.),

1. Draws the attention of the petitioner to the observations of the Administering Authority and to the statement of its special representative, in particular that the petitioner's husband could have appealed to the manager of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church and, in case of conflict, to the courts concerning the payment of his salary for the period of seven days which he spent in prison; and
2. Decides that no further action is called for on the part of the Council.

V. Petition from Mr. Simon Ahiakpor (T/PET.6/350)

4. The petition was examined and discussed at the 396th and meetings of the Standing Committee (documents T/C.2/SR.396 and).

5. The special representative stated that the petitioner, if he had so wished, could have inquired from the Paymaster as to the details of his discharge pay which appear in his paybook. Candidates to posts with the police or the Preventive Service of the Customs Service are selected solely on the basis of qualifications and not of origin.

6. The special representative said that should the petitioner again apply for employment in the police or in the Preventive Service and if his qualifications are satisfactory and there is a vacancy, he would certainly be considered.

7. At its meeting, the Committee approved by votes to with abstention draft resolution V, annexed to the present report, which it recommends that the Council adopt.

V. Petition from Mr. Simon Ahiakpor (T/PET.6/350)

The Trusteeship Council,

Having examined the petition from Mr. Simon Ahiakpor concerning Togoland under British administration in consultation with the United Kingdom as the Administering Authority concerned (T/PET.6/350, T/OBS.6/15, T/L.),

Draws the attention of the petitioner to the observations of the Administering Authority and to the statement of the special representative, in particular that should he again apply for employment in the police or in the Preventive, he would certainly be considered.

VI. Petition from Chiefs, Elders, and People of Akporsor (T/PET.6/351)

10. The petition was examined and discussed at the 396th and meetings of the Standing Committee (documents T/C.2/SR.396 and).
11. The special representative stated that there was no discrimination of any kind against "strangers" (immigrant communities) living in Buem State and that they enjoyed exactly the same rights as natives.
12. The special representative added that Mr. Thomas Agbo, one of the petitioners, had been creating trouble for the local authorities and that he seemed to wish to set himself up as Chief of the Akpossos living in British Togoland and to regard himself as an equal with the Paramount Chief of the Akpossos living in French Togoland.
13. The special representative stated that land tenure in Buem State was changing from communal to family and even to individual tenure. Some Akpossos in Buem State owned land, others worked as tenants for Buem land-owners. The most common arrangement in Buem State is for a tenant to turn over one-third of his crop as payment of rent to the owner of the land, He said that the Administration was assisting the development of under-developed areas by opening roads, supplying cocoa seedlings, etc., but that it felt unable to interfere between landowner and tenant.
14. At its meeting, the Committee approved by votes to with abstention draft resolution VI, annexed to the present report, which it recommends that the Council adopt.

VI. Petition from Chiefs, Elders and People of Akporsor (T/PET.6/351)

The Trusteeship Council,

Having examined the petition from Chiefs, Elders and People of Akporsor concerning Togoland under British administration in consultation with the United Kingdom as the Administering Authority concerned (T/PET.6/351, T/OBS.6/16, T/L.),

Draws the attention of the petitioners to the observations of the Administering Authority and to the statement of its special representative, in particular that the Akpossos living in Buem State enjoy exactly the same rights as the natives and that there is no discrimination whatsoever against them.