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PETITIONS CONCERNING THE TRUST TERRITORY OF THE
CAMEROONS UNDER FRENCH ADMINISTRATION

Working Paper Prepared by the Secretariat

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INTRODUCTION

This working paper deals with petitions relating to certain incidents involving the leaders or active members of the Union des Populations du Cameroun (UPC) which took place between 5 March and 22 May 1955, i.e. up to the beginning of the serious incidents dealt with in document T/C.2/L.197.

They all originate from the UPC and its branches or from organizations and individuals sharing its views.

I. PETITIONS RELATING TO LEGAL PROCEEDINGS AGAINST UPC LEADERS (T/PET.5/549 and Add. 1, 553, 558, 559, 563, 566, 570 and Add.1, 571, 575, 576, 579, 584 and 587 and T/PET.5/L.62)

Complaints of petitioners

1. In a telegram dated 4 March 1955 (T/PET.5/549), the Chairman of the UPC states that he "disclaims all responsibility in view of the new combat measures initiated by the French authorities against the UPC". In a second telegram dated 7 March (T/PET.5/549), he states that Um Nyobe, on his arrival by air on 5 March, was greeted by a legal summons from the French authorities to appear on 7 March. The petitioner adds that "the purpose of this legal prosecution is to prevent the General Secretary of the UPC from giving an account of the mission he accomplished at the United Nations". More than 50,000 people held a protest meeting on 6 March "against this act of intimidation". In a third telegram dated 14 March (T/PET.5/549/Add.1), the Chairman of the UPC states that the Administering Authority "is determined to continue the repressive legal measures which it has begun despite popular censure". The Political Bureau of the UPC accompanied Um Nyobe on his tour to report on his mission and at Yaoundé he was greeted by a summons. In his letter of 17 March (T/PET.5/559), the Chairman of the UPC further states that the proceedings against the Political Bureau of the UPC and the Executive Committee of the JDC, and particularly against Um Nyobe and Abel Kingué, are designed not only to deprive the people of any information on the objectives of the International Trusteeship System but also, and above all, to deprive the movements fighting for independence of leadership by passing sentence on their leaders, prior to the elections, so that they will not be eligible to vote or stand for office. He recalls the case of Kingué, the delegate of the JDC, who, before he left the Cameroons to go to the United Nations, was served with a summons to appear before the French Examining Magistrate at Dschang on a matter of which he had no knowledge. He protests against the "abusive practices" of the French Examining Magistrates, who summon people either "in connexion with a matter concerning them", or "as witnesses", or on a rogatory commission. In French law the defendant has no right to counsel in such cases.

2. In his telegram dated 18 March (T/PET.5/558), the Chairman of the UPC states that Ernest Cuandié, Vice-Chairman of the UPC, was the object of provocative action by a European policeman named Bouteiller, who expressed the French Government's intention of imprisoning all UPC leaders, contrary to the law. In his letters of 1 and 12 April (T/PET.5/570 and Add.1) he adds that the UPC leaders are summoned to court one after the other for offences of opinion, because they represent obstacles to the incorporation of the Cameroons in the French Union as stated in the newspaper "Etoile". Further, he protests against: the tour of the Lamido Yaya Dahirou in the Northern Cameroons for the purpose of indoctrinating the chiefs; the incidents at Mbouda, Bafoussam and Garoua; the repressive measures against patriots organized by Mr. Domergue, the administrator; the action taken by the French authorities in the Cameroons at the Ministry for Overseas France in order to secure the imprisonment of Um Nyobe before the end of April 1955; the fact that with the publication of the "joint letter", "the Catholic clergy have officially entered the political arena"; the statement of Mr. Allain before the court at Eseka concerning the striking and imprisoning of Cameroonians who claimed that their forest lands had been stolen from them by colonists.

3. In its letter dated 15 April (T/PET.5/584), the Boneleckè-Bonalembé (Douala) local committee of the UPC states that "at 5 p.m. on 7 March 1955 the Cameroonian people demonstrated their sympathy with their delegate by accompanying him in large numbers to the law courts".

4. Protests against the legal summons served against Um Nyobe on 5 and 13 March are contained in the following petitions:

T/PET.5/553 - UPC of Paris - 9 March

T/PET.5/575 - UPC of Boga-Mahole - 27 March

T/PET.5/576 - UPC of Zcoatubsi - 19 March

T/PET.5/579 - UPC of Nsimekele - 27 March

T/PET.5/L.62 - Mr. Elie Yeremo - 8 May

5. The Boga-Mahole (T/PET.5/575) and Nsimekele (T/PET.5/579) local committees of the UPC complain further of the legal proceedings instituted against Fozo'o Ekabe, editor of the newspaper "Etoile", Abel Kingué, Vice-Chairman of the UPC, and Jacques Ngom, member of its Executive Committee, following the publication

in the "Etoile" of a press release which voiced the "complaints of the mass of the population regarding the growing reign of terror in the Cameroons". The Nsimekele Committee asks for the abandonment of the legal proceedings instituted against the leaders of the national independence movements and the unconditional release of their comrades Batuid Panhu, Sende Amos etc., imprisoned at Eséka.

6. Mr. Elie Yememo also protests against: the legal proceedings taken against Félix Moumié, Abel Kingué, Ernest Ouandié and Martin Singa; the increase in the number of police stations instead of in the number of schools, hospitals and dispensaries; economic difficulties. Other complaints are dealt with later or have already been examined in document T/C.2/L.197.

7. The UPC Committee of Boneleckè-Bonalembé (T/PET.5/584) protests against the imprisonment of Fozo'o Ekabé at Maroua for having upheld "the rights of a citizen after severe colonialist repressive measures had been taken" and against the "40,000 francs for a licence for the newspaper La Voix du Cameroun" which Abel Kingué was required to pay. It strongly urges that Um Nyobe's passport should be visaed "in order that he may go to Paris to carry out the mission with which he has been entrusted by the political officers of the UPC". The rest of the petition deals with "services rendered to the Cameroons by France": the bridge over the Wouri, "a stem of plantains for which an indigenous inhabitant of the town would have to pay 100 francs costs him 150 francs once it has crossed the bridge"; the hospitals, with their racial discrimination, "very mediocre food", and shortage of beds, medicine, and doctors; education, "two classes in one classroom and one student teacher for every three classes".

8. The Chairman of the UPC, in his telegram of 1 April (T/PET.5/563), and the UPC Committees of Seven Djongo I and II and of Kassalafam in their motion of the same date (T/PET.5/571) also protest against the difficulties placed in the way of Um Nyobe's departure to Paris. The Chairman of the UPC requests the United Nations to intervene on the subject with the French Government. The Committees of Seven Djongo and Kassalafam also complain about the "series of illegal proceedings against the leaders of the progressive Cameroonian movements", for example the summons issued against Abel Kingué, the managing director of La Voix du Cameroun, "concerning the payment of the press censorship fee and a calumnious accusation based on an administrative letter which has nothing to do

with the legal branch". Finally, the petitioners "protest to the very utmost" against the statements of representatives of the French Government at the United Nations, who have declared "again and again that freedom of speech, of association and even of the press is strictly respected in the Cameroons under French Administration".

9. Mr. Abel Kingué, Vice-Chairman of the UPC, "reports" in his telegram dated 8 April (T/PET.5/566) that he and Um Nyobe were "accused of slanderous denunciations", that on the previous day "mercenaries made an attempt" on their lives during a meeting in which they were reporting on their mission to the United Nations and that the "public authorities" who were present did not intervene. The Chairman of the UPC also states, in a telegram received on 9 May (T/PET.5/587), that charges of "publication of false information" have been made and that the French authorities seemed "determined to disqualify UPC leaders from election".

Observation of the Administering Authority

10. With reference to the summons that Um Nyobe received on 5 March 1955, on his arrival by air from Douala, the Administering Authority states in document T/OBS.5/74, in reply to petition T/PET.5/533, that following on the incidents at Songmbengué (cf. petition T/PET.5/211 and the observations thereon), which took place in February 1955, Um Nyobe Ruben brought proceedings against Mr. de Gélis, the Chief Subdivisional Officer of the Ngambé Subdivision at that time, alleging breach of close, unlawful dissolution of a meeting, unlawful seizure of documents, etc. The case was dismissed.

11. Mr. de Gélis brought proceedings against Um Nyobe in the Court of First Instance at Yaoundé, under article 373 of the Penal Code, for false accusation.

12. On Um Nyobe's return to the Territory on 5 March 1955, after his journey to New York and Paris, Mr. Cau, the Examining Magistrate of Douala, had a summons to appear served on him with a view to informing him of the complaint which had been laid against him.

13. This procedure was absolutely regular and it is pertinent to note that the UPC immediately seized upon the case for propaganda purposes and attempted to make the active party members believe that the administrative and judicial authorities of the Cameroons were trying to secure Um Nyobe's imprisonment.

14. This affair had its epilogue on 6 and 20 June 1955 in the Court of First Instance at Yaoundé, sitting as a correctional court, which sentenced Um Nyobe in absentia (he having taken flight after the May incidents, for which, since his part in their preparation was manifest, a warrant for his arrest had been issued by the Douala State Counsel on 25 May 1955) to six months' imprisonment and a fine of 50,000 francs.

15. Um Nyobe was welcomed by about 200 people upon his arrival on 5 March 1955. No special police arrangements had been made and the High Commissioner was at Yaoundé on that day.

16. In its observations concerning petition T/PET.5/559, the Administering Authority refers to its comments (T/OBS.5/72) in reply to petition T/PET.5/438 in which it states that Abel Kingué was being prosecuted for libel, as a result of a letter he had sent to the Chief of the Dschang Region, accusing a gendarme and a special gendarme of assault and battery and extortion during an investigation of the death of Pierre Ngongang (for this case, see the observations of the Administering Authority concerning T/PET.5/294, T/OBS.5/36). On 4 November 1954, during the preliminary judicial enquiry, a summons to appear was served on Abel Kingué after he had disregarded several court orders. Far from being in danger of arrest, Abel Kingué shortly afterwards obtained his visa for travel to New York (hearing of Cameroons petitioners before the Fourth Committee) from the immigration authorities of the Territory, no objections being raised by the judicial authorities.

17. In its observations (T/OBS.5/76) relating to petition T/PET.5/570/Add.1, the Administering Authority states that, as the newspaper Etoile is an organ of the UPC, its statements concerning an alleged policy of repression are part of a vast UPC propaganda campaign designed to engender a hostile attitude towards the Administering Authority.

18. Police Inspector Bouteiller never made the statements attributed to him. The same holds for Mr. Allain's statements to the court of Eseka. The "repression" reported in the Northern Cameroons at Garoua and Ngaoundéré (Administrator Domergue) is a reference to the banning of certain UPC meetings by the Administration owing to the hostile attitude of the people toward the UPC propagandists.

19. The Administering Authority has no comment to make on the "joint letter" sent to their congregations by the Cameroonian Bishops.
20. In its observations (T/OBS.5/76) in reply to petition T/PET.5/575, the Administering Authority states that in response to a complaint by the High Commissioner dated 21 January 1955, proceedings were begun on 26 January 1955, by the Douala State Counsel's Department, against Abel Kingué, Jacques Ngom and Ekabé Fozo'o, for disseminating false information likely to lead to a breach of the peace.
21. In issue No. 6, page 4, of the newspaper Etoile, of which Ekabé Fozo'o was the Managing Director, Abel Kingué and Jacques Ngom had published an article under their joint signature, stating inter alia: "What the colonialists do not dare to say is that terrorists bands are being formed under the leadership of a few settlers for the purpose of continuing in Douala and elsewhere murders manifestly directed at the leaders of the UPC and the most conspicuous of the active trade unionists."
22. The article referred in particular to the death of Charles Mahop and Bekolo Belinga. The Administering Authority has already submitted observations on this matter in connexion with petition T/PET.5/463 (see T/C.2/L.191).
23. Moreover, on 26 January 1955, the Correctional Court of Appeals upheld a judgement given on 27 October 1954 by the Court of First Instance of Ebolowa, sentencing Ekabé Fozo'o to two months' imprisonment for contempt of the Administrative Court.
24. In its observations (T/OBS.5/79) relating to petition T/PET.5/L.62, the Administering Authority states, with regard to the proceedings against Félix Moumié and Martin Singap, that two actions were brought on 28 March 1955 by the Examining Magistrate of the Court of First Instance at Maroua, following complaints made on 10 March 1955 by Mr. Georgy, former Chief of the Diamaré Region.
- (a) The first action, for libel and public insults uttered against an administrative officer of the Republic, involves an article which appeared in issue No. 3 of the periodical Etoile under the title "The Political Temperature of the Cameroons", signed by Félix Moumié.

(b) The second action, also for libel and public insults uttered against an administrative officer of the Republic, involves two articles which appeared in issue No. 2 of the periodical Lumière, of which Martin Singap was the editor. Proceedings were instituted against Jean-Paul Sende and Conrad Bene, the signatories of the two articles.

25. The Administering Authority points out that any economic difficulties felt in the Cameroons at the beginning of 1955 are linked with the fall in cocoa prices on the international market and not with any alleged policy of oppression. Steps have been taken to mitigate as far as possible the effects of the fluctuations in prices at the producer level.

II. PETITIONS RELATING TO INCIDENTS IN THE ADAMACUA REGION
(T/PET.5/560 and Add.1, 582, 589, 594, 595, 597 and
Add.1, 618, 634, 640, 674 and T/COM.5/L.117)

The petitioners' complaints

1. In his telegrams of 24 and 28 March 1955 (T/PET.5/560 and Add.1), the Chairman of the UPC states that at Ngaoundéré UPC meetings have been forbidden and that concessions of active members are being watched by guards.
2. In a telegram dated 26 April 1955 (T/PET.5/582), the Chairman of the UPC states that Administrator Granier took similar action at Meiganga, to that taken at Bafoussam and provoked an incident during which certain active members of the UPC were seriously injured. He adds that the Administering Authority is opposing in every way the publication of information concerning the United Nations and the presence of the United Nations flag in various UPC committees.
3. In its petition of 2 June 1955 (T/PET.5/640), the Toulouse branch of the Association of Cameroonian Students protests against the punitive expeditions organized against the people of Meiganga, Ngaoundéré, Nanga-Eboko and other centres "whose offence was that of being keenly aware of the international status of their country and of therefore having raised the flag of the United Nations".
4. In his petition dated 8 May (T/PET.5/595), the Vice-Chairman of the UPC states that "the present situation" at Meiganga and in the Bamiléké Region is the result of the meetings organized by the High Commissioner at Ngaoundéré and Dschang; he states that five persons were injured at Meiganga.
5. In her petition of 14 June (T/PET.5/674), Mrs. Gertrude Cmog states that the incident of 23 April at Meiganga "as it happened, ... occurred after the meeting held by Roland Pré and his administrators from the North at Ngaoundéré, where there had been much discussion of a great plan to have the appointed chiefs of that sector of the Territory sign petitions calling for the division of the Cameroons, with the North to be annexed to the Chad". In his petition of 27 April (T/PET.5/589), Mr. Etienne Njoukam refers to meetings being held at Bafoussam and Meiganga before the incidents in these two places.

6. The Meiganga incident is mentioned, without any further details being given, in the following petitions:

T/PET.5/594 - Paris Committee of the UPC, 12 May 1955

T/PET.5/597 and Add.1 - Ndog Bat II and other local committees of the UPC, 11, 18 and 26 May 1955

T/PET.5/618 - Editorial Board of the newspaper "Femmes Camerounaises", 23 May 1955

T/PET.5/634 - Bamiléké Region Central Committee of the UPC, 5 June 1955

T/COM.5/L.117 - "Félix Moumié" Local Committee of the UPC, 11 May 1955

7. The "Félix Moumié" Local Committee further complains (T/COM.5/L.117) of the fact that the Minister of Colonies and the President of the French National Assembly opened the Wouri bridge, "which, built less than a year ago, has already dropped three millimetres", instead of making an inquiry into the incidents at Meiganga and Bafoussam, of the searches which have become the order of the day, of the policy of pitting Africans against one another, of the freedom granted to those who are attempting the lives of people who demand the unification and independence of their country and of the prospect of integration in the French Union.

Observations of the Administering Authority

8. The Administering Authority states in its observations (T/OBS.5/76) that petitions T/PET.5/560 and Add.1 relate to the banning of a public meeting of the UPC at Ngaoundéré on 19 March 1955... In January 1955, the UPC had set up at Ngaoundéré a small local committee consisting only of a few tradesmen or civil servants from the Southern Cameroons.

9. Several public or private meetings were organized by this committee during the first two months of 1955. The propaganda indulged in at these meetings offended the susceptibilities of the Foulbé peoples of Ngaoundéré, who form, under their Lamido, a very conservative Moslem group. When another UPC meeting was announced for 19 March 1955, the Lamido and the leading Foulbé notables informed the Chief Regional Officer that the Foulbé peoples might react violently against the UPC, and that they could not accept responsibility for the attitude of the Foulbé peoples.

As the Chief Regional Officer lacked adequate facilities to maintain order if the UPC propagandists were mishandled by the Foulbés, he decided to ban the proposed meeting. His decision caused no incident and merely resulted in the usual telegrams of protest being dispatched by the UPC.

10. The Administering Authority states in its observations on several petitions that its comments on the Meiganga incident are to be found in its observations in reply to petition T/PET.5/582, which have not been received.

11. The Administering Authority emphasizes in its observations (T/OBS.5/77) on petition T/PET.5/589 that the High Commissioner held no meetings at Bafoussam and Meiganga. The petitioner is undoubtedly referring to the conferences which the High Commissioner held at Dschang and Ngaoundéré in March and April with the chiefs from the western and northern Cameroons to study political, economic and social questions relating to their districts.

12. The Administering Authority points out in its observations (T/OBS.5/78) on petition T/PET.5/674 that Mrs. Gertrude Cmog has absconded following an order to appear issued against her by the State Counsel at Nkongsamba for rebellion, incitement to revolt, violence and contempt of court.

III. PETITION FROM THE BAPANG CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE UPC
(T/PET.5/574) DATED 3 APRIL 1955

1. The authors of the petition complain that the Chief Regional Officer and the Mayor of Bafang "have set the populations of Banka and Badoumja against each other in order to unleash civil war at Bafang" and have arrested four comrades of Fondanti, who were subsequently sentenced to eight days' imprisonment and a fine of 12,000 francs. They state that on 18 and 24 November 1954, administration lorries were used to convey mercenaries from Bafoussam to Bafang "for the purposes of civil war" and that members of the delegation of persons belonging to the Bafang Subdivision were arrested "and unlawfully convicted". They also accuse these same authorities of seizing "the peoples' lands at Mbafam in order to reward the perpetrators of their crimes" and of "marking out lands ... without consulting the occupants" and of appointing the Court assessors "under irregular conditions". They complain finally that the Committee's "registered correspondence" is always returned to it.

2. The Administering Authority states in its observations (T/OBS.5/76) that it has already submitted observations on the land disputes between the Banka and Badoumja chiefdoms in connexion with petition T/PET.5/371 (see T/C.2/L.194) and on the incidents of November 1954 at Bafang, in connexion with petition T/PET.5/410 (see T/C.2/L.192). As the petitioner does not give the names of the four active members from Fondati allegedly arrested by Mr. Orabona, the Administering Authority is unable to submit any observations on this matter. The action taken in connexion with the appointment of assessors to the Customary Courts of Bafang is in accordance with the regulations in force. The same applies to the marking out of land in the Urban Centre.

IV. PETITIONS RELATING TO THE INCIDENTS AT GAROUA
(T/PET.5/572, 577, 618 and 775)

1. In a telegram dated 12 April (T/PET.5/577), Mr. Sala states that a price has been put on the head of the UPC militants at Garoua, where the "colonialists organize" the natives to "shed blood". After "many accidents", the UPC members were forbidden to leave their huts, their quarter was "surrounded by mercenaries" and they were not allowed to hoist the "UN flag". In his telegram of 13 April (T/PET.5/572), the Vice-Chairman of the UPC makes the same accusations and adds that a "group of mercenaries is terrorizing" the "supporters of unification" in the Bamiléké Region.
2. In its petition of 23 May 1955 (T/PET.5/618), the editorial board of the newspaper Femmes camerounaises mentions an incident at Garoua in which half a dozen people were injured and a woman miscarried. According to an undated petition from the Garoua Local Committee of the UPC (T/PET.5/775), the disturbance occurred on 10 April, when "demonstrations at which the United Nations flag was to be hoisted were scheduled to take place". Other complaints contained in these two petitions have already been discussed (see T/C.2/L.197, 202 and 207).

[In its observations on petition T/PET.5/577 (T/OBS.5/77), the Administering Authority merely states that it has submitted its observations on "the alleged incidents at Garoua" in connexion with petition T/PET.5/572, which have not been received.]

V. PETITIONS RELATING TO THE SEARCHES OF 19 AND 26 APRIL AT DOUALA
(T/PET.5/580, 589, 592, 595, 640, 674 and T/PET.5/L.62)

The petitioners' complaints

1. In a telegram dated 20 April 1955 (T/PET.5/580), the Chairman of the UPC asserts that the French Administration had, on the preceding day, searched the headquarters of the UPC and the houses of the members of the political bureau. The homes of Um Nyobe and Abel Kingué were pillaged and the furniture completely ruined. UPC militants, including the wife of Um Nyobe, were arbitrarily arrested by the police, Um Nyobe's baby being brutally torn from its mother's arms and handed over to the social service. The petitioner says that the reasons for the search were not explained to them.
2. In his petition of 28 April (T/PET.5/592), the Vice-Chairman of the UPC adds that many documents were taken away during the searches of 19 April and that the UPC members detained at the police station were discharged the following day as a result of popular protest. In another petition dated 8 May (T/PET.5/595), the Vice-Chairman of the UPC emphasizes that "they were not properly notified of the reasons" for the searches of 19 April, and that "except in rare instances, they were carried out in the absence of the householders or their representatives". He adds that the police officers arrived at the head of several lorry-loads of armed troops and that the 5,000 persons who had assembled before the UPC headquarters sang the Cameroonian national anthem and the Marseillaise when they saw the police. Twenty-five people were arrested. On 26 April, the UPC headquarters and the home of Mr. Abel Kingué were searched "under particularly illegal conditions, while large detachments of armed troops occupied a whole street".
3. In her petition of 14 June (T/PET.5/674), Mrs. Gertrude Cmog complains of having been arrested without reason during the searches of 19 and 25 April and of having been subjected, as well as Mrs. Nyobe, to "terrible tortures by officers of the French judicial police" while they were "being held at the Commissariat central (Central Police Station)". Three other petitions also mention the April searches at Douala, without giving further details:
 - T/PET.5/589 - Mr. Etienne Njoukam, 27 April 1955
 - T/PET.5/640 - Toulouse branch of the Association of Cameroonian Students, 2 June 1955
 - T/PET.5/L.62 - Mr. Elie Yememo, 8 May 1955.

Observations of the Administering Authority

4. The Administering Authority, in document T/OBS.5/77, states with reference to petition T/PET.5/589 that on 15 April, at Douala, André-Claude Nyobé, a member of the Executive Committee of the UPC, applied for a building permit to the administrative official in charge of the New-Bell sector. Nyobé's tax slip for 1954 was attached to his application as required by the regulations. The slip proved to be a forgery. The examining magistrate of Douala issued letters rogatory ordering the necessary investigations to determine the source of the forged slips and, during the afternoon of 19 April, searches were carried out at the headquarters of the UPC and at the homes of the principal UPC leaders: Um Nyobé, Félix Moumié, Ernest Ouandie, Abel Kingué, Théodore Mayi Matip and André-Claude Nyobé. The UPC headquarters were searched again on the morning of 26 April, likewise under letters rogatory and with the same end in view.

5. No arrests were made. Nevertheless, a certain number of UPC members, including Mrs. Um Nyobé, who had insulted the police inspectors responsible for carrying out the search, were taken to the Central Police Station for an identity check and questioning. They were released immediately afterwards. It should be noted that, as the inspectors were acting under letters rogatory issued by the examining magistrate, the search was absolutely legal. Furthermore, the UPC members who insulted them could have been charged with insulting officers of the administrative branch and brought before the courts on that count. No such action was taken.

VI. PETITIONS RELATING TO THE INCIDENT OF 13 MAY AT THE
DOUALA LAW COURTS (T/PET.5/587, 605, 618 and 678)

The petitioners' complaints

1. In a telegram received on 9 May, the Chairman of the UPC (T/PET.5/587) informs the United Nations that the "local authorities are believed to have military instructions for thirteenth May, day on which Unicameroun leaders are to appear before examining magistrate" and that he declines all responsibility for the result. With his petition of 17 May (T/PET.5/605), he supplies a copy of his telegram of 10 May to the Section Commander of the Cameroonian Guard in charge of the security police in which he informs the Commander that he would be "constrained" to submit the matter to the Minister of National Defence and the United Nations Security Council should the Commander send armed forces against the people accompanying the UPC leaders when they appeared before the examining magistrate on 13 May. In the same petition, the Chairman of the UPC states that on "12 May, the people had been invited, at a big public meeting, to go in great numbers and in an orderly fashion to the court. On 13 May, the court was packed to the doors before 8 o'clock in the morning". Before beginning the examination proceedings, the magistrate asked the leader of the guards detachment to disperse the crowd. The order was carried out with brutality by a large armed force, estimated by the petitioner to consist of 200 soldiers and as many policemen. There were "forty injured; seventy-three citizens were arrested, including thirty-seven women". "In their cell two metres long by 1.80 metres wide and 2 metres high, the thirty-seven women packed like cattle in a wagon were sprinkled with water containing naphthaline." The arrested persons were set free as a result of popular clamour, with the exception of Samuel Ekwe, an ex-serviceman accused of "assaulting the police". In its petition of 23 May (T/PET.5/618), the editorial board of the newspaper "Femmes Camerounaises" estimates the number of persons who took part in the demonstration of 13 May at over 6,000.

2. The Jeunesse démocratique du Cameroun describes this incident in its petition of 15 June 1955 (T/PET.5/678), without adding any new details.

Observations of the Administering Authority

3. In its observations (T/OBS.5/79) on this last petition, the Administering Authority states that on 13 May 1955, when Mr. Félix Moumié was summoned to appear before the examining magistrate of Douala, the UPC leaders organized a demonstration of 200 to 300 people in front of the Law Courts. The police, who had been detailed to prevent incidents, were set upon by the majority of the demonstrators; however, the demonstrators were driven back without violence. There was only one arrest, that of Samuel Ekoue, who had assaulted police constables Duverger and Menanga. Ekoue was taken to Police Headquarters and brought before the State Counsel's Department at Douala the following day.

VII. PETITION FROM THE OFFICERS OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE UPC, THE CENTRAL BUREAU OF THE USCC, THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE JDC AND THE OFFICERS OF UDEFEC (T/PET.5/612) DATED 22 APRIL 1955

1. In a "joint proclamation" signed on 22 April (T/PET.5/612), the Officers of the Executive Committee of the UPC, the Central Bureau of the USCC, the Executive Committee of the JDC and the Officers of the UDEFEC asked for the following measures:

"1. General elections to be held before 1 December 1955 for the purpose of setting up a Constituent National Assembly;

"2. An Executive Board to be established immediately in the form of a Provisional Government responsible for the organization of the general elections;

"3. A United Nations Commission to be set up immediately in the Territory to supervise the installation of the organs of the new Cameroonian State."

2. The petitioners recall that since 1949, the UPC and "the major people's organizations in the Cameroons under French Administration and in the Cameroons under British Administration have urged the setting of a date for the termination of the period of trusteeship..." In November 1949 the UPC asked that the period of trusteeship should be terminated ten years after 13 December 1946, the date on which the Trusteeship Agreements were concluded. "In December 1949 Somaliland, a former Italian Colony, less developed in every respect than was the Cameroons in December 1946, was placed under the International Trusteeship System for a period of ten years."

3. The petitioners state that "Roland Pré... had every opportunity to carry out a policy consistent with the interests of the Cameroonian people". In a telegram dated 30 December 1954, the Chairman of the UPC "reaffirmed... specific proposals for the unification and independence of the Cameroons" which had been awaiting action in the High Commissioner's office and "assured the French Government's representative of the co-operation of every patriot who adopted a policy of understanding". They claim that the High Commissioner could have established the sub-divisional assemblies which the citizens of the Cameroons demand, proposed the establishment of a legislative assembly and a government council with a Cameroonian majority, encouraged the establishment of

communes de plein exercice in the larger urban centres, guaranteed freedom of assembly, of the press and of association, the free exercise of trade union rights and the fair application of the Labour Code and, to put such a programme into effect, could have "arranged for talks with the leaders of the movements which represent true Cameroonian opinion". Instead, the High Commissioner "chose another course" and the petitioners address a solemn appeal "to the Frenchmen of France and honest Frenchmen living in the Cameroons... to co-operate with us so that our claims may be granted... . Everyone knows that we have not the slightest intention of evicting foreigners from our country. What we want is our independence and we say this aloud because we are sure of our victory."

4. The petitioners claim that "the Cameroonian people has achieved impressive results in connexion with the three points of the programme on which the specific proposals are based": so far as unification is concerned, they have proposed to the two Administering Authorities that a referendum should be held; with regard to political integration, "the Administering Powers have been shown by events that Cameroonians do not wish to be integrated with Nigeria or swallowed up in what is generally called the French Union"; the question of setting a date "has been superseded", the Cameroonian delegates to the ninth session of the General Assembly having "merely proposed the establishment of the organs which are to make the preparations for our independence". The signatories of the manifesto "do not promise independence to the Cameroonian people as certain narrow-minded people might maliciously believe"; their "sole desire is to muster all persons of goodwill in the country for the defence and realization" of their "cherished aspiration to unity and independence". They call on all patriots "to redouble their vigilance in organizing the masses to turn the tide in favour of the immediate unification and independence of the Cameroons"; they are "aware of the status" of the Cameroons under the International Trusteeship System, a status which completely rules out any comparison with Madagascar and Indo-China... by working peacefully... patriots will never become entangled in the meshes of colonialist provocation". Lastly, they say they are "convinced" that they will "attain independence without shedding a single drop of blood".

Observations of the Administering Authority

5. The Administering Authority states in its observations (T/OBS.5/78) that petition T/PET.5/612 bears the title "Joint Proclamation". It is not a real petition dealing with a certain number of specific points, but a collection of proclamations of a political nature, together with some entirely gratuitous assertions in support of the arguments advanced. Bearing these factors in mind, the Administering Authority does not feel that it has any observation to make in reply to this document.
6. It emphasizes, however, the flagrantly untruthful statements which appear on pages 4, 5, 6 and 7 of the petition.
7. The authors of the petition entirely ignore:
 - (a) the Bill introduced in the French Parliament for the creation of a Government Council in the Cameroons and the extension of the powers of the Cameroons Territorial Assembly;
 - (b) the setting up, at the subdivisional and administrative post level, of fifty-eight rural communes throughout the Southern Cameroons, a large number of which are subdivided into communal sections and village councils, and which may also form communal associations on a regional basis for the purpose of carrying out important work in the general interest;
 - (c) the fact that there are thirteen urban communes, three of which, as the result of a recent vote in the French Parliament, are to become communes urbaines de plein exercice, administered by an elected town council and mayor (Douala, Yaoundé and Nkongsamba);
 - (d) the efforts made as the result of joint action by the technical services, basic education services, and modernization units, and by the creation of numerous posts in the Service du paysannat in order to improve agricultural techniques and raise the living standard of the agricultural workers.
8. The Administering Authority would further recall that fundamental freedoms (trade union rights, freedom of association, assembly, speech and the press) are guaranteed to all the inhabitants of the Cameroons.
9. The Labour Code is not applied in a discriminatory manner, and many collective labour agreements have been concluded, or are under discussion, between employers and employees in various fields of activity.

VIII. PETITION FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF THE "UNION DES POPULATIONS DU CAMEROUN" (T/PET.5/613) DATED 27 MAY 1955

1. The petitioner states that the Cameroonian people unanimously adopted on 22 May a national flag with a red background and a natural-colour crab in the centre and requests the United Nations Security Council to secure acceptance of this flag. He states that "The Cameroonian people intend henceforth to be treated on an equal footing with other Governments and request admission to the United Nations as a member".
2. The Administering Authority states in its observations (T/OBS.5/78) that petition T/PET.5/613 is not a petition, but a political declaration. The Administering Authority therefore considers that it need not comment thereon. It emphasizes, however, that, on 27 May 1955, Félix Moumie was under a warrant for arrest issued on 25 May 1955 for participation in the May riots (charge: organizing armed groups, rebellion, etc.).

IX. PETITION FROM THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE "JEUNESSE DEMOCRATIQUE
DU CAMEROUN" (T/PET.5/598) DATED 25 MAY 1955

1. The petitioners state in their telegram that on 22 May a flying squad of gendarmes and men of the Wouri detachment of the Cameroonian Guard under the orders of European NCO's wantonly ransacked the dwelling of Mpaye, the Chairman of the JDC. They state that "Mpaye brought action against these crimes", and that in order to "conceal" them the "colonialist authorities" were "harassing Mpaye" and had organized "military repression... to terrorize" the peaceful Cameroonian people.
2. The Administering Authority states in document T/OBS.5/71/Add.1 that the statements regarding the destruction of the dwelling of Hyacinthe Mpaye on 22 May 1955 are completely false. A meeting of the UPC was held on 22 May between 3.15 and 5.30 p.m. in the Koumassi quarter of Douala on the subject of the incidents which had just taken place at Mbanga (see the observations on petition T/PET.5/635). Hyacinthe Mpaye spoke at that meeting.
3. At the same time the first meeting of the Front National Camerounais was taking place at the house of Vincent Mbock. After 5.30 p.m., when the UPC meeting at Koumassi was over, a group of UPC members, Hyacinthe Mpaye among them, made an attack upon the Front National meeting (see the observations on petition T/PET.5/635).