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STANDING COMMITTEE ON PETITIONS

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE NINETY-SIXTH MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Monday, 20 July 1953, at 4.25 p.m.

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(Conference room papers Nos. 42 and 43) (continued)

PRESENT:

Chairman:

Mr. QUIROS El Salvador

Members:

Mr. SCHEYVEN Belgium

Mr. SCOTT New Zealand

Mr. ZONOV Union of Soviet Socialist
Republics

Mr. MCKAY United States of America

Secretariat:

Mr. RANKIN Secretary of the Committee

Mr. BERENDSEN Assistant Secretary of the
Committee

PETITIONS CONCERNING THE CAMEROONS UNDER FRENCH ADMINISTRATION: DRAFT FORTY-NINTH AND FIFTIETH REPORTS OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE (Conference room papers Nos. 42 and 43) (continued)

Petition from the "Union des Populations du Caméroun" and Mrs. Christine Essomba (T/PET.5/119 and Add.1-4)

The draft resolution was adopted by 4 votes to none, with 1 abstention.

Petition from Mr. Etienne Matis and 24 other village chiefs (T/PET.5/123)

The draft resolution was adopted by 3 votes to none, with 2 abstentions.

Petition from the African Veterans' Association of the Bamiléké Region (T/PET.5/124)

Mr. SCHEYVEN (Belgium) suggested that in view of the Administering Authority's observations (T/C.2/L.45, section XIII) paragraph 2 of the operative part should be amended to read: "Notes that the Administering Authority is considering the possibility of finding employment for Mr. Goune as a post office supervisor or as an assistant radiotelegrapher".

Mr. MCKAY (United States of America) supported the proposal.

Mr. BERENDSEN (Assistant Secretary of the Committee) pointed out that if that proposal were adopted the last clause in the third paragraph of the preamble should be deleted.

It was so decided.

The draft resolution, as amended, was adopted by 4 votes to none, with 1 abstention.

The draft forty-ninth report, as amended, was adopted by 4 votes to none, with 1 abstention.

Mr. BERENDSEN (Assistant Secretary of the Committee) pointed out that further information would be required in connexion with the petition from Mr. Hermann Yené (T/PET.5/131 and Add.1) and the petition from the African Veterans' Association of the Bamiléké Region (T/PET.5/124); also perhaps in connexion with the petition from the "Comité régional de l'Union des populations du Caméroun", Fouban (T/PET.5/114).

Mr. MCKAY (United States of America) agreed that information should be asked for in connexion with the first two petitions mentioned, but felt that the third concerned a general question and that further information concerning the establishment of communes mixtes would in the normal course be included in the annual report on the Territory.

The CHAIRMAN said that the Secretariat would take action in accordance with the United States representative's suggestion.

Petition from Mr. Thomas Francois Omog (T/PET.5/122)

The draft resolution was adopted by 4 votes to 1.

Petition from Chief Vincent Yomba and other Chiefs of the Edéa region T/PET.5/151

The draft resolution was adopted by 4 votes to none, with 1 abstention.

Petition from Mr. Boniface Mboura and Mr. Benoit Malateji (T/PET.5/116)

Mr. SCOTT (New Zealand) suggested that the words "and their clearing was surrounded by a fringe of trees in an attempt to conceal it", in sub-paragraph (c) of the third paragraph of the preamble, should be deleted.

Mr. MCKAY (United States of America) asked for a separate vote on paragraph 3 of the operative part.

Mr. SCOTT (New Zealand) said he would vote against paragraph 3. The French representative had made it quite clear that the Administering Authority would not consider paying compensation.

Mr. SCHEYVEN (Belgium) would also vote against paragraph 3. The Committee could not recommend the payment of compensation to persons who had knowingly broken the law.

Mr. ZONOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) wished paragraph 3 to be retained; failing that, he could vote for the draft resolution if it recommended the granting of other land to the petitioners to compensate them for the land that had been alienated.

Mr. SCHEYVEN (Belgium) observed that it was not within the power of the Administering Authority to grant land to Africans. That could be done only by the tribes, to whom the land belonged.

The Committee decided, by 3 votes to 1 with 1 abstention, to delete paragraph 3.

The draft resolution, as amended, was adopted by 4 votes to 1.

Mr. ZONOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) regretted that he had been obliged to vote against the resolution, which would be of no help to the petitioners.

Petition from the General Assembly of the Central Committee of the "Union des populations du Camérroun" (T/PET.5/118)

The draft resolution was adopted unanimously.

Petition from the President of the "Comité régional de l'Union des populations du Camérroun a Foumban" (T/PET.5/111)

The draft resolution was adopted unanimously.

Petition from Mr. Ousman Muisse and Mr. Felix Roland Moumie (T/PET.5/112 and Add.

The draft resolution was adopted by 4 votes to none, with 1 abstention.

The draft fiftieth report, as amended, was adopted by 4 votes to none, with 1 abstention.

The CHAIRMAN observed that further information was required in connexion with the petition from Chief Vincent Yomba and other Chiefs of the Edeá region (T/PET.5/151).

Mr. McKAY (United States of America) and Mr. SCOTT (New Zealand) expressed appreciation of the patience, objectivity and impartiality with which the Chairman had presided over the Committee's debates.

Mr. SCHEYVEN (Belgium) associated himself with those remarks and thanked the Secretariat for the help it had given the Committee.

Mr. ZONOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that there had been no delays in the translation of the documents into Russian and he wished particularly to thank the responsible services of the Secretariat.

The CHAIRMAN thanked the members of the Committee for their co-operative attitude and the members of the Secretariat associated with the Committee's work for their help.

He declared the session closed.

The meeting rose at 5.10 p.m.