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PETITION FROM THE FRENCH CAMEROONS WELFARE UNION
CONCERNING THE CAMEROONS UNDER BRITISH
AND UNDER FRENCH ADMINISTRATION

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Note by the Secretary-General: In accordance with rule 84 of the rules of procedure for the Trusteeship Council, the Secretary-General has the honour to transmit herewith to the members of the Trusteeship Council a communication dated 1 November 1949 from the French Cameroons Welfare Union concerning the Trust Territories of the Cameroons under British administration and the Cameroons under French administration. This communication was transmitted to the Secretary-General by the United Nations Visiting Mission to Trust Territories in West Africa.

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PETITION

FROM

THE FRENCH CAMEROONS WELFARE UNION

TO THE TRUSTEESHIP COUNCIL OF THE

UNITED NATIONS

THROUGH THE VISITING MISSION TO

THE CAMEROONS

NOVEMBER 1949

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MEMORANDUM TO THE UNITED NATIONS TRUSTEESHIP COUNCIL MISSION
TO THE CAMEROONS UNDER UNITED KINGDOM AND FRENCH TRUSTEESHIP
BY THE FRENCH CAMEROONS WELFARE UNION

We the members of the French Cameroons Welfare Union of the British Sector of the Cameroons Trusteeship Territory embracing the following Tribes:

Duala, Babimbi, Bakoko, Batanga, Bana, Bamum, Bafia, Bangissa, Bulu, Chang, Eton, Makia, Mbo, Yaounde and a host of other tribes, clans and families do welcome you to the Cameroons. We very well appreciate the work of the United Nations Organisation and thank her in particular in sending you our August visitors to this far flung part of the world. This visit of yours has afforded you great and personal inconveniences but the motive for which it has been made and the results which it will bring on the 3 million inhabitants who inhabit this country, who are part and parcel of the human race for which UNO is working should counterbalance the personal sacrifice. We hope that throughout your stay here you would see and scrutinize our difficulties yourselves and return to Lake Success with your minds stock with firsthand information. We wish you, the bearers of the light of liberty, freedom, justice and the equality of man, a happy stay in the Cameroons.

Our country came in contact with the Portuguese over five centuries ago who made no effective colonization of our country but merely used it as a calling place for their long voyages to India or for trade purposes. In the nineteenth century, European traders of various nationalities especially English and German set up trading posts at Duala. The two countries named above carried out much political intrigues among them with a view for the annexation of the country. The German Consul-General for West Africa, 'Herr Gustaff Nactigal' however succeeded on the 14th July 1884 of planting the German Imperial flag at Duala and so after a short time the entire country now know as the British and French Cameroons was brought under German sway. The Germans sent out six Governors, between the years 1884 to 1915; the first of whom was Gouverneur von Sodden and the last of whom was Gouverneur von Ebermair. To effect order, the Germans promulgated stern measures and even took away our fertile lands, by force of arms, for the making of plantations without our consent.

War broke out in 1914 and there followed an emergent, combine, allied, colonial troops invasion of the Cameroons which lasted for two weary years bringing death, suffering and want to the inhabitants. From 1916 to 1920 the Cameroons was under Military Rule. It formerly passed into British and

/French

French hands by the peace of Versailles without our consent and opinion. The Mandated Territories were to be governed according to Article 22 of the Covenant of the League of Nations. Their stewardship has not been exemplary for the nations involved have not carried out to the letter the obligation thrust on their shoulders by the League of Nations and UNO or else there should have been no backwardness in education, lack of progress, communication and the people living in such child penury. We have been passed from hand to hand like a ball and since Time has in the past winked at the difficulties and cries of the Cameroons, he is now prepared, to see the reign of justice and law here by sending you, our delivers.

We, you humble French Cameroons petitioners, would not belabour you with the maladministration which engulfed our grandires during the German Rule of 1884 - 1916. We want to lay before you, our INTERNATIONAL CIVIL SERVANTS, the grievances which pertain in the French Cameroons to-day as follows:

1. During the Peace of Versailles held on the 28th of June 1919, our country was divided without our consent by the powers that were, giving the largest to France with an area approximately 200,000 square miles with a population of about three millions. The French have done very little to elevate the status quo or alleviate the sufferings of the people.
2. In the French Cameroons the flame of colour bar is fanned daily so that in certain towns and parts of it e.g. Bonajo in Duala, schools, cinemas, hospitals, swimming baths and hotels are located only to Europeans, despite the fact that both the French Cameroonians and the Europeans contribute to the revenue of the country which effects the building or erection of hospitals, schools and other public buildings.
3. The Government of the French Cameroons is a farce. There are no elected assemblies. It is some what an oligarchy in form so that the ordinary man in the street knows very little about how his country is being governed and there are no steps taken in enlightening them as regards the Democratic form of Government as obtains in France, USA, Britain, Canada or Iceland. St. Thomas Aquinas said "Government is unjust if it contributes to the advantage of the rulers rather than to the best interests of all, the farther it departs from the common good, the more unjust does it become. An oligarchy departs in greater measure from the welfare of all than does a democracy for the latter seeks the welfare of the majority; the former the welfare of the minority".

4. Another thing which embitters us as regards the division of our country, the Cameroons, without our consent, is the question of Custom Posts placed at all vantage points along the boundary between the British and French Trusteeship Territories of the Cameroons. We Cameroonians have always, are always and will always regard the French and British Cameroons as a single territory in which the native languages, Customs, Laws and beliefs are almost indontical among the tribes which inhabit it; but now a Cameroonian travelling to or from the British Cameroons or French Cameroons is forced to pay custom duties for any goods he may have in his possession. Many Cameroonians have suffered the lose of untold sums either by drowning in order to get out of the reach of the custom officials or in having their goods confiscated. This wounds our feelings very much and on that account we want this boundary made by hand to be removed immediately and the Custom Posts and Custom Duties abolished at no distant date so that one can travel across the boundary with his bossom full of gold without molestation and seizure of goods and moneys; for no country can exist as such if it is internally and eternally divided.

5. It was the famous French Philosopher Voltaire who said, "Education enfranchises a nation. Once a nation begins to think it is very difficult to stop it". The French have not followed this wise saying to the letter in that part of the Cameroons which fell under their jurisdiction. Very little has been done to promote proper education in the true sense of the word. There are a good number of Elementary Schools to be found in the large towns e.g. Nkongsambe, Mbanga, Duala, Bonaberi, Chang, Fumban, Eseka, Edea, Yaounde, Ebolwa etc. There are just two Secondary Schools to serve the needs of so large a population and we refute the fantastic claims and allegations made by the French of having founded sixteen Secondary Schools. There are about three or four Technical Schools (Ecoles Professional) in the French Cameroons.

The Country needs a large number of Secondary Schools and Technical Schools where the youths of the country, who are the trustees of posterity will be educated to use both the heads and hands. In this way learning will be encouraged and dissiminated, which will enable the country to take its place among the freedom loving nations of the world.

6. Medical facilities are adequate only in the large towns e.g. Duala Edea, Ebolwa, Yaounde etc., but although the patients enjoy medical care in these town yet the hospitals are an apology in comparison with those used by Europeans, for they are dirty. We humbly beg that Medical facilities should also be carried into far flung villages. In so doing dispensaries will be set up in the rural areas under well trained and experienced dispensary

/attendants

attendants who will have assistants. Medical Research Units should also be established to parade the country and wage war on diseases such as Yellow Fever, Leprosy, T.B., Dysentary, Small Pox and Sleeping sickness which are prevalent and are a scourge in the rural areas of the French Cameroons.

A Maternity home was opened last year at Yaounde. This is no credit to the French for their 30 years stay in the Cameroons. Maternity homes should be established in most of the towns and also in the rural areas where mothers about to give birth will be well cared for until they have been safely delivered of their children and where also mothers will be taught what treatment and nourishment to give their babies. This will reduce infantile mortality and bring about an increase in population.

7. The Germans imported forced labour in the Cameroons while building the Northern and Midland Railways, the opening of plantations and the putting up of Government Houses in the various towns. To some extent the Germans might not be considered to have been at fault because they raised little revenue from the country since they were just opening it up and on top of that, the people were poor and had no means of paying taxes. In order to counterbalance this, for the advancement of the people as it was alleged, the German Government introduced forced labour.

Even in these modern days, this sad form of labour has been continued in the same strength and in a cruel way by the French in the French Cameroons. People are hunted in the towns and villages and caught, while peaceful travellers are stopped on the way with no word to reply irrespective of rank, age or sex, and driven to work by soldiers or controlled by harsh voiced and brutal overseers. We regard this as an inhuman act and we want it to go. We beg for freedom of movement.

Our prisons are a miniature concentration camp. In Europe, Canada, America, Australia, and India prisons are places where people are reformed, paid a little sum which will help them when they leave the prison, and come knowing a trade; but in the French Cameroons the prisoners are so badly treated that when they come out they resolve to become more hardened and clever criminals and so cause untold trouble on their fellow citizens. The prisoners work for long hours a day without any headgear. They have no proper clean uniforms and they are not allowed to wear shoes. Their food is also poor and they are forced to sleep in wet, damp, narrow cells in large numbers without proper ventilation. This is very detrimental in their health and character.

The system of chaining arrested persons and prisoners in long rows together, of about 15 in each row, with ropes tied round the neck of one man and the same rope tied round the neck of another man and so on, reminds us

of the slave stocks used during the Slave Trade and parts of which could be found in the British Museum. The hands of the criminals are so tightly tied that they prevent blood circulation; in the bargain, they are roughly beaten by the Police or soldiers without any question from the authorities. Handcuffs and not cords should be substituted. The lives of prisoners must be very well looked after and those serving a long term of imprisonment should learn a profitable trade which will aid them later, after leaving the prison walls.

8. There has been no freedom of movement in the French Cameroons without being subject to unnecessary charging of luggage and being stopped by very lowly paid policemen who in discharging their duties, think more on their own pockets than in the meting out of justice. It would do the country great good if only people of character, people whose personnel integrity cannot be questioned, are recruited into the Police Force with high pay. The French Government must educate the Police to be the servants and not the local dictators of the townspeople.

We wonder how Europeans who come over 4,000 miles away enjoy unlimited freedom of movement in the day and even in the night in our country without being stopped; but, a Cameroonian, a true son of the soil, is not allowed to come and go as he wants.

Africans cannot buy certain things in the shop for they are sold only to Europeans. Whenever you meet a whiteman, even of lower degree than yourself, you are bound to raise up your hat until he passes. We cannot bear it any longer for it is the Frenchman who should doff his hat to us who own the soil - our God given heritage. All these "herrenvolkism" must go for it forstalls the progress of our country.

The people of the French Cameroons are subject to unnecessary taxes. Heavy taxes are levied on tailors, traders, carpenters and on a host of people with various walks of life and even on local articles e.g. dried fish, just in the same way as it is described in Caesar De Bello Gallico Liber tres chapter 32 where taxes, it is said, were imposed on slaves, soldiers arms, columns, doors, wheat and in fact for anything for which a name could be found.

We the French Cameroons people are peace and freedom loving people and we would not bear being subject to unwarranted taxes from an alien government. The French people have in a way not learnt from history that unnecessary taxes caused the English to lose the American Colonies in 1783 and the French Revolution and that these paved the way to be followed by all those who wanted to discard maladministration, unjust taxes and corruption and supplant democracy and freedom and equality of man in their place.

9. The United Nations Charter of the 26th of June 1945, the trusteeship agreement of the 13th December 1946 and the United Nations Declaration of Human Rights approved on December 7th 1948 by the 58-nation Social Committee of the United Nations and adopted by the General Assembly on the 10th December 1948 are very important Declarations among oppressed Colonial peoples.

Article 76b of the Charter reads, "To promote the political economic, social and educational advancement of the inhabitants of the Trust Territories, and their progressive development towards self-government or independence as may be appropriate to particular circumstances of each territory and its people and the freely expressed wishes of the people concerned, and as may be provided by the terms of each Trusteeship Agreements."

76c "To encourage respect for human rights and for fundamental freedoms for all.....and to encourage recognition of the interdependence of the people....." The Trusteeship Agreement of 13th December, 1946 reads:

Article, 6 "The Administering Authority shall promote the development of free political institution suited to the Territory. To this end the Administering Authority shall assure to the inhabitants of the Territory a progressively increasing share in the administrative and other services of the Territory, shall develop the participation of the inhabitants of the Territory in advisory and legislative bodies and in the government of the Territory, both central and local as may be appropriate to the particular circumstance....with a view to the political advancement of the inhabitants of the Territory....."

Article 14; "Subject to the requirements of public order, the Administering Authority shall guarantee to the inhabitants of the Territory freedom of speech of the press of assembly and of petition". In a precis form, the Declaration of Human Rights reads thus:

Everyone has the right:

Article 4. To life, liberty and security.

Article 5. To freedom from slavery and servitude.

Article 6. To protection from cruel punishment.

Article 7. To recognition before the law.

Article 11. To a fair and public hearing by an impartial tribunal when accused of a crime.

Article 14. To freedom of movement and residence.

Article 20. To freedom of opinion, expression and to seek, receive, impart information and ideas through any media regardless of frontiers.

/Article 21.

Article 21. To peaceful assembly and association.

Article 22. To take part in the government of his country.

Article 23. To social security.

These documents are milestones in the history of the human race and we wonder whether the French Signatories who affixed their names and seals on the above named documents, knew the responsibility they owe our country. The French Home Government has given independence or Dominion Status to few countries in her Empire. This Government has never believed in granting its subjects independence but we, as the Trustees of the U.N.O., do desire that our country should be led, taught and given every advantage by the French Government towards self-government in the very near future. The period of tutelage should be well defined and considerable improvement carried out if these are not complied to then a great injustice is being done to us for which the eye of history will scrutinize and pronounce a judgement about these days and those who left us in the lurch.

The Cameroons was divided and grouped as a Class B Mandate while Trans-Jordan, Palestine, Syria, and Iraq were Class A Mandates, the latter is about the size of the Cameroons. These countries were developed rapidly and today every one of them is free, a thing which we in the Cameroons desire for if the ultimate aim of the Mandatory System was to develop us towards self-government then in fact, the development has been very slow in this age of speed. We want development in the lines of Education and Sanitation. We want Social, Economic and Political development. We want our minerals to be tapped for the development of the country and not development on paper nor should the exploitation of our economic and mineral resources be branded as development.

10. Most of the 3,000,000 people of the French Cameroons live in rural areas and are thus wedded to the soil. The high temperatures, heavy rainfall and fine volcanic soil could make the Cameroons one of the economically rich countries in West Africa. We export cocoa, coffee, bananas, timber, hides and skins, rubber and groundnuts. The exports are sold at a trifling sum to Europeans who gain fabulously for them in Europe and these contribute not a penny from the proceeds, for the development of the country.

In Northern Cameroons, dairy farming, groundnuts and cotton growing could be established in the grassland, region there and considerable support and sums voted by the Government could be used in that regard. In the Equatorial lands of great heat and rainfall the people grow besides their local foodstuff and some of the produce named above - mangoes, oranges, pine-apples, tomatoes and vegetables to a small extent. If the government

/on the spot

on the spot could only sponsor and encourage this agriculture on a large scale some of these fruits would find their way in the ready markets of Europe. This would bring a source of income for the natives. It will alleviate their position and redeem them from the shackles of poverty and want. The minerals and economic resources of the country should be developed for the advantage of us French Cameroonians.

11. We have heard the famous adage from AEsop's Fables, "Unity is strength" time after time. If the countries of Europe had continued to remain as they were between the sixth and the eighteenth centuries - broken up into independent states and duchies with no love lost for each other, and each jealous of its own freedom, Europe should not have impressed its name so indelibly in History.

The same also applies to the Cameroons. If the U.N.O. wants a new day to dawn in the Cameroons it should advocate for unification between the French Cameroons and British Cameroons within a very short time. When the Cameroons was erroneously divided without our consultation people of the same linguistic affinity were torn from another. A good example is the people of Mungo tribe. The River Mungo forms the Southern natural boundary of the Cameroons for over 60 miles. In Mungo district you have people whose customs, beliefs and language are the same living on either side of this river; yet the same people are under different governments paying tax to different governments and are subject to different laws but who at the same time comprise a tribe known as the Mungo tribe. This division is very detrimental to the advancement of the country. In the near future we would want disunity to be supplanted by unity. French and English should be given a conspicuous place in the school curriculum of the two Trusteeship Territories as is the case in Canada and as Afrikaan and English obtain in South Africa.

12. The French people have always held down the African not to aspire. Their French Idol, Napoleon Bonparte a man, who stormed Europe for about two decade years believed in the policy which the French people have come out with equal zeal and zest - the policy of divide and rule. They have never publicised the Cameroons so that at important conferences held in various parts of the world they never sponsor the sending of a Cameroons representative. Our children in the French Cameroons are only taught that three R's. There are few presses in the Country for the Government only allows a press which sings its praise. Political Meetings are not allowed and people are subject to victimization in that regard. We humbly beg you to look into our case and give us freedom of movement, assembly, speech and

/the press

the press without molestation as is outlined in United Nations Declaration of Human Rights Charter approved in December 7th 1948.

The French Cameroons is such a terrible Police state which reminds us Nazi Germany or Fascist Italy. Secret Police are always on the look out to smell out nationalists and those interested in Politics are branded as malefactors and enemies of the French Government. In any peaceful assembly High Ranking Government Officials attend in order to cast a certain awe on the people and so prevent them from speaking out their minds. We consider this very cruel and contrary to international decrees and charters to which France was an important signatory. The right of petition is withheld from the people and contravening which the said person is/are liable to victimization of the worst degree and yet France is the country under whose aegis we must be to attain independence for we believe with Rousseau "Better a precarious liberty than a peaceful slavery".

13. The type of penal laws in force in the Trusteeship Territory of the French Cameroons are rather militant in character. People are imprisoned for life or for a long period or kept under arrest for a considerable period as was in Europe from the "Dark Ages" right up to the 18th Century for very trifling affairs. A good example is the term of imprisonment which was pronounced on the men who took part in the general strike at Duala in 1945, who in turn were accused of having committed some looting. Several of the people, some of them mere youths were given life long imprisonment and imprisonment ranging from five to twenty years. The prisoners were 'transported' to Mokolo near Obangi Shari Territory which is a very hot semi-desert region. There the prisoners are given the worst treatment. In Mokolo you can see a distance of about 40 miles. Prisoners are sent there only to die and there is always no hope of return as was the case in the Leper Island of Molokai during the days of Blessed Father Damian. There is lack of water and food and it is alledged that prisoners live in very dirty prisons. Oh! Mercy. They are beaten and have poor meals but only do work as horses under the blazing tropical sun. This comes from the fact that the Administration of justice is also in the hands of the Administrators. These people have been under this treatment now for five years and we want their release for they never committed war crimes such as were committed in Nazi Germany, Vichy France or Fascist Italy and so there is no justification in imprisoning our brothers and sisters, hundreds of miles from their own country. Even people who committed major war crimes in the aforesaid countries have been imprisoned for a shorter duration or acquitted. Let the Habeas Corpus be used for the release of these unfortunate prisoners /as soon as possible.

as soon as possible. This sentence gives us a picture of Russia; how, way back in the early 19's exiles and prisoners, men who were communists and who fought for the betterment of the proletariat against the corrupted and monarchist government laboured in far flung Siberia. This is unjust, Sirs, and we beg for humane treatment and a better penal system which we ourselves should determine.

The whole country is alledged, was forced to pay a certain fine on top of that, therefore punishing people twice for one crime. During the strike it is further alledged that planes and tear gas were used against the people while soldiers and police actually opened fire on the masses and over thirty lives were lost of which the outside world heard nothing of. The prisons at Duala and Yaunde are well painted and look nice. It is all window dressing. The prisoners in less important towns live in very wretched prisons. The prisoners in Duala live, as well as all over the French Cameroons on very poor innutritious food. In the former, they live on a fermented cassava paste called "Kumkum" mixed with salt. This is food for animals.

We want to determine the laws ourselves as Montesquieu said, "A fundamental principle of democracy is that the people themselves should determine the laws."

14. If the primary aim of this Trusteeship system is to lead towards self Government then we want to see plans at work to verify this. We want most senior appointments in the civil service, church and merchantile bodies held by Cameroonians. There is no need importing people from Gabon, Senegal, French Guiana and West Indian Islands or from Dahomey or France itself when you have Cameroons youths on the spot with identical qualifications. We are not a French Colony nor a French Protectorate and we would not allow the Cameroons to be a place where the social and economic difficulties of France are to be solved.

Some time ago our joys knew no bounds when a release was made in the press that the UNO has a plan afoot of setting up a University College to serve the Trust Territories. We hope that this point is still very strongly considered and would soon materialize since it is for our own advancement, if the Cameroons wants to keep abreast with other West African colonies. If we have a University to serve our needs, our children who are the trustees of posterity will profit from it. For there, they will study technical and professional courses which will contribute to the upliftment of the country, and if higher education is denied a people then progress, self-government and its concomitants have also been denied it in disguise.

15. In the French Cameroons the exportation of Cocoa which is hugely produced in Yaounda District, Palm produce, coffee, bananas, etc, as have been pointed up above, is in the hands of European firms who gain enormously in European markets for the commodity which they buy at a meagre sum from the natives out here. We ask that our farmers could export direct to Europe and buy freely with any country under the sun. If we sell our crops at a good sum this will ultimately lead to economic stability which is a step towards our long desired self-government.

In the French Cameroons we have a fairly good number of roads connecting the large towns. These roads must be built to link up rural areas which contribute tax to the revenue of the country in order to enjoy modern facilities e.g. roads, sanitation, good water supply etc. All the produce come from these rural areas and yet some of the peasants must travel for about seven days carrying a bag of cocoa or coffee or kernels weighing about 112 lbs. before reaching the nearest road as happens in Eseka area. When roads are built they will in turn bring light and advancement to these out of the way places. The Midland railways whose starting point is Duala takes 14 hours to run 308 Kilometres to the Metropolis of the country called Yaounde. The Northern line runs 160 Kilometres to Ngongsamba, the terminus and fourth largest town in the French Cameroons. The carriages are a disgrace for the third class and second class coaches look like coal trunks in some countries. They are dirty and narrow and over 100 people are conjected into one of these. Sometimes people are carried in waggons which, had been previously used in transporting cows and cargo so that transporting lots of passengers for a distance of 308 kilometres in such dirty wagons with poor ventilation may lead to sickness and the lose of goods for which no compensation is paid. We want better railway carriages and new engines to supplant the old ones in order to facilitate transport.

There is a regular launch service between Duala and Boneberri. The launches are often too pack full so that they at time capsize as one did last year and also this year, leading to the loss of a number of lives. If the Government could put a little steamer of 400 tons and a draught of 10 feet that could in a way wade of the manacing increase in the accidents even some of your humble petitioners have narrowly escaped death through these same incidences. We beg very much to draw your attention to the increasing rise in this launch service and railway accidents.

16. We come to a very important point, a point which touches the very core of our hearts - the land problem. The Germans, just before they were ousted out of the Cameroons in 1916, found oil palm plantations along the Northern

Railway round about Nkapa, Bomono and Maka and also a few in the Midland Railway, between Yaounde and Duala. That was all. Today we have durable timber being felled at Yaounde and round Yabassi for which no compensation nor economic advantage is reaped by the people in whose land the timber is felled. In Penja, Njombe, Loum Paris, L'Hoe, Lala, Maningote Mbagga and Manjo (along the Northern Railway) are the most fertile blocks of the land under banana cultivation held by the Campagne de Bananes. In D'Ndzangue is a larger rubber plantation, bigger than the parcel of land in Tiko area held by the Elders and Fyffes and Cameroons Development Corporation put together and owned by a private Frenchman. The labourers undergo harsh treatment and are not paid a living wage in the true sense of the word. We want that these lands whether lease holds or freeholds should become native lands and the profits of which shall be used for the development of the country in fact, we want a sort of a French Cameroons Development Corporation formed, as obtained in the British Cameroons, to take over the control of these lands. Compensation should be paid by the Government to the companies who are now working on them. The managers of the said corporation shall be solely in the hands of a board of trusted and clever Africans appointed by the people who shall employ other people of character and integrity to run the Corporation with the help of expert European advisers. The proceeds shall go to develop the country than to have our currency leave our country for others. When a people are disinherited from its land that people will sink down to obscurity, poverty and famine.

17. In the early part of this year the Director of Public works proposed that huge hydroelectric power could be provided by the numerous water falls of the rivers in the French Cameroons which would soon be tapped to supply electric power to France by High tension cables, and the town of the French Cameroons with unlimited supply of electric power both for local industries and the lighting up of the towns. We hope that it would not be long before this idea and plan would be translated to realities.

18. Since the early 1930's there has been a very large influx of Frenchmen to the Cameroons. The influx or immigration is very abnormal and alarming. They are given lands every where and there are scattered a little way from the railways and roads, isolated homesteads and owning fine parcels of land round their houses without paying any proceeds. In Duala, half the population is European. The European import with them the bossing attitude and colour bar. We fear and feel that segregation may crop up and that the natives would be driven into unfertile water-tight reserves with no rights and that South African negrophobia and colour bar will take root and blossom in this corner of the world. There should be a check on these Europeans

/who had left

who had left their country for their country's good for they are no asset to the French Cameroons but a liability.

19. Harsh rule and cruelty caused the Cameroons Rising of 1904-5. The Cameroonian as an "African is too busy in the struggle for life, for health, for a fragment of happiness and security, to ask himself why others are better off and why he is left on one side by the march of nations.....The African does not rebel from spite or envy but desperation", so said Cary. This made us rebel and in 1914 - 1916 our native troops fighting for the Germans often turned traitors and attacked them singing, "Fire, fire the Germans make dem run away and new masters cam take them place".

When the second War broke out our youths flocked to the colours in thousands and had to endure all the appalling hardships for the preservation of France, the French Empire and Gallie civilization in France, North Africa and Madagascar. Their achievements were not done in the line light and very little was heard about them in public, the press and books, but to uphold truth which when crushed to the ground must rise again, a square deal must be given to the Cameroons Soldiers. They had fought, conquered, suffered and died to preserve democracy and the French Empire which achievement genuine historians will not forget them for we thought that as soon as the war was over and our common enemy vanquished welfare will be their first consideration yet here we are, her we stand battered from pillar to post. When he declared "A man who is good enough to shed blood for the country is good enough to be given a square deal afterwards". Really our contribution in the last war, in men and money is fit to buy our freedom.

20. The French Cameroons is no longer prepared to be saddled and bridled to be ridden by a booted and spared rider like France she too wants to be a concresent factor to be reckoned with in the peace of the world. She wants the Administering Authority to educate the people in democratic form of Government. Municipal government which is unknown in the French Cameroons should be set up. The people have no legislative body. An elected legislative Council with a form of Representative government should be set up and the should be defined about five years at most. During which period the Administering Authority will leave no stone unturned in educating us towards internal self-government, which shouls be introduced in 1957. Our Chief complain is that the French have been to slow in expanding public enterprise we blame them for explaiting us and for permitting private enterprises to do so.

Most of the jobs would be held by Africans but if the French would like to continue as they had done in the past then we would want them to quit our country and let only teachers be imported to help us on, as happened in

/Japan,

T/PET.4/19

T/PET.5/8

Page 16

Japan, for the French, "sit on a man's back, chocking him and making him carry him and yet assure himself and others that he is very sorry for him and wishes to ease his lot by all possible means by getting off his back". With apologies to Count Leo Tolstoy.

We want to enjoy all the Freedoms set down in all declarations in History. If we were in the Fr. Cameroons and out our grievances so freely we would be victimized and imprisoned. The freedom of speech, movement, assembly, press etc. are our greatest desires.

21. We the French Cameroons living in the British Cameroons, your humble petitioners, beg that we too should enjoy the same advantages, that of education and for the tax we pay in this land of our sojourn and also we should have representatives in the government to voice out the difficulties of the sprinkling population of French Cameroonians, and may a similar thing happen to British Cameroonians living in the French Cameroons, Every Cameroonian, in fact, should enjoy equal privileges in the U.N.O. Trusteeship Territories of the Cameroons whether in the French or British Trusteeship Sphere of the Cameroons.

22. We have kept you listening too long, and time presses. We have come to the end of our Memorandum and may it go down in History for posterity to cherish that in the fourth year of the formation of the U.N.O. their representatives were sent to the French Cameroons Trusteeship Territory and that before their arrival there was no reign of Egalite Fraternite and Liberite save on paper and that; Whereas after their mission very radical reforms pertaining to the unification of the country and progress of the Cameroons were made: Whereas that visit also gave the French Cameroons the Four Freedoms as aforesaid and Whereas that visit also raised the educational and economic status quo of the people by building more Schools, Colleges and Universities, and

Whereas that visit also saw to the building of more Technical schools and giving back to the natives as aforesaid all seized land held by companies as leaseholds or freeholds and,

Whereas that visit also gave birth to a Trusteeship University, spurred higher education, gave the Africans more responsible posts and quickened the pace for our ultimate goal - self government and,

Whereas that visit also ended the question of investing all land affairs to one man, who could cede it to private men and companies without any consultative body.

If freedom is bitter we the Cameroonians want to taste of it "Many politicians.....are in the habit of laying it down as a self evident proposition, that no people ought to be free till they are fit to use /their freedom.

their freedom. The maxim is worthy of the fool in the old story, who resolved not to go into the water till he had learned to swim. If men are to wait for liberty till they become wise and good in slavery they may indeed wait for ever" as Lord Macaulay said.

23. We hope that the U.N.O. will succeed in the Cameroons as it has succeeded in Palestine and other parts of the world. We send our greetings and best wishes to the General Secretary His Excellency Monsieur Trygve Lie for his unflinching services to the cause of humanity.

We wish you GOD'S blessing, a happy stay in the country and success in your Mission in this land of question marks and a safe return to Lake Success, New York, United Nations Organisation's Head Quarters.

Before we end we beg you to go beyond our large towns into the rural areas and see the social conditions for yourselves.

We sing to you, with apologies to William Blake thus:

"You should not cease from mortal fight,
Nor should your swords sleep in your hands,
Till you have built a new Jerusalem,
IN CAMEROONS! green and pleasant land."

THE END OF THE MEMORANDUM

T/PET.4/19
T/PET.5/8
Page 18

Dated at Tiko this 1st day of November 1949 A.D.

(Signed): Lucas Ayizi

PRESIDENT

William Eden Tama

TREASURER

George Belma Mbaraga

SECRETARY

(illegible)

One unofficial member

Moni Jose

2nd unofficial member

Copy to: Ndaumbe Alexander Bell Duala

The U.N.O. Delegates.

The C.N.F., Buea.

The High Commissioner, Yaounde, French Camerouns.

The Camerouns Youth League, Lagos.

Yaunde Chief

Bakoko "

Duala "

Grassfield "

(Signed): Rappel

George Bele

Bebe Jacob

Thomas Sipenny

Received at United Nations Headquarters: 22nd November 1949.
