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PETITION FROM MR. BERNARD TAYO CONCERNING
THE CAMEROONS UNDER BRITISH ADMINISTRATION

(Circulated in accordance with rule 85 of the rules
of procedure for the Trusteeship Council)

Bernard Tayo,
c/o Mr. Peter Gaab,
Strangers' Settlement,
Buea, U.U.K.T. Cameroons,
19 December, 1955.

Sir,

I humbly beg to put up the following petition for your intervention as all my redress in Nigeria has been exhausted. Forwarding letters of petitions to higher authorities merely suggest a reply that should be sent to me so that petitioning a higher authority here is merely a matter of routine. I am therefore forwarding this petition to you an unbiased authority and request that you may see your way through in regularising unfortunate situations which have arisen.

It is about the matter of my discharge "as Time Expired" from the Federal Prisons Service with effect from the 6th of May, 1955. I have decided as stated above, to state that I have worked for nine years and prior to this have served in the Armed forces for 3 years 11 months.

In accordance with established practice, I had expected to be called up for medical examination with a view to my re-engagement upon the expiration of my last term of service (i.e. 6th May, 1955) but to my utter surprise I was served with Notice of Discharge No. 4707/49 of December 14th 1954, signed by the Director of Prisons, Lagos.

It is Government procedure that an official can only be relieved of his work if he is by reason of an advanced age or some physical disability which renders one incapable of performing his duties of office, or gross inefficiency and/or misconduct which may cause his removal from the service.

Even a cursory inspection of my record of service will clearly show that none, repeat none, of the failings enumerated above was in evidence when I was served with a notice of discharge. Being convinced that I was still fully capable and still capable of performing my duties satisfactorily, filed a strong protest against the Director of Prisons through the Officer in charge H.M. Convict Prison, Buea, laying emphasis on the fact that I have had no previous warning, either verbal or in writing, of any shortcomings found in my work which I was unable to amend. No satisfactory reply was sent to my protest.

In view of the circumstances explained above coupled with the fact that I have a large family solely dependent upon me for support and livelihood, I feel constrained to appeal to you, as head of the United Nations Organisation's petitions section, to see your way through in intervening in this matter.

I should be grateful (a) either to be re-instated or

(b) paid an ex-gratia award for wrongful dismissal in spite of the little gratuity which has been paid to me.

I earnestly await your reply.

I am, Sir,
Your humble applicant,

(Signed).....BERNARD TAYO.....

The General Secretary,
United Nations Organisation,
Lake Success, U.S.A.
