

UNITED NATIONS
TRUSTEESHIP
COUNCIL



GENERAL

T/PET.4/77
19 November 1951

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

INDEX UNIT

10 DECEMBER

PETITION FROM MR. JACOB MBWANGE AND OTHERS CONCERNING
THE CAMEROONS UNDER BRITISH ADMINISTRATION

Note by the Secretary-General: In accordance with rule 85 and supplementary rule F of the rules of procedure for the Trusteeship Council, the Secretary-General has the honour to transmit to the members of the Trusteeship Council and to the Government of Italy as the Administering Authority of the Trust Territory of Somaliland, a communication dated 15 October 1951 from Mr. Jacob Mwange and others concerning the Trust Territory of the Cameroons under British administration.

From. Jacob Mwange & Co.
c/o Fritz N. Ikome Esqr.,
c/o Post Office
Tiko.

Under United Kingdom Trusteeship.
15th October 1951.

To the War Reparation Committee,
Thro. The Secretary General,
United Nations Organisation,
Lake Success, New York,
United States of America.

My Lords,

The Petition of Messrs. J.Mwange, Motumba,
Ataba & Wilson- Ex-Employees of the
Cameroons Development Corporation, Tiko .
Respectively.

On behalf of ourselves, the undersigned Ex-Employees, of the Cameroons Development Corporation, who have of late been forced to retire from the services of the said Cameroons Development Corporation on grounds of age, justified by section 15. of the Trusteeship Council's Rules of Procedure, Rule.77 which reads as follows:

1. That your Petitioners were employed into the services of what had grown to be known as the Cameroons Plantations since the earlier days of the German settlements at dates falling as far back as 1907, and have given un-interrupted services to the progress of these Plantations.

2. That after World War II, the custody of these Plantations fell into the hands of the Custodian of Enemy Property and the services of your Petitioners were retained, due recognition being given to years of these services, giving prior to these changes.

3. That on the taking over of these Plantations by the Cameroons Development Corporation the services of your Petitioners were again retained,

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due reference- judging from the salaries offered and the gradings- having been given to such experience and skill- as past services in these Plantations had placed to your Petitioners Credits.

4. That your Petitioners Usefulness to the early stabilization of the services of the Cameroons Developement Corporation is further confirmed that all of us, your humble Petitioners have had confirmed promotions to the Corporation's Intermediate Services which is the highest employment class designation for any of the Corporation's African Staff to-date.

5. That the Cameroons Developement Corporation, starting their operations with such materials as the Custodian of Enemy Property handed-over to them would have found it difficult to have made a start without such guidance as your Petitioners experience made it possible for them (Your Petitioners) to give.

That it is in respect of this truth stated in the foregoing paragraphs that the Cameroons Developement Corporation, on the Representations of the Cameroons Developement Corporation Workers' Union agreed to consider giving gratuitous awards to retiring Employees giving full considerations to contineous services given during pre- C.D.C. days.

6. That the Cameroons Developement Corporation on the event of your Petitioners forced retirement have given awards that fall far below your Petitioners due in comparison with a forced to retire contemporary of non-cameroon origin whose discriminate award is to Petitioner's knowledge, whereas services put up by the temporary under reference is below your Petitioners length of services.

In these circumstances, your Petitioners maintain the resolute conviction that the treatment given to them is unjustified taken into consideration that the Cameroons Developement Corporation is for the benefit of the people of the Cameroons.

Mr. Jacob Mwange who had given up to 44 years of un-broken service receiving the highest award of fiftytwo pounds seventeen shillings and siwponce.. ONLY.

7. That your Petitioners are told that a War Reperation Committee of the Allied Nations took the purchase price of the German Properties and ought

/on behalf

on behalf of the Germans to award a substantial sum as gratuity to employees of your Petitioners' category.

8. That with reference to the argument contained in the foregoing paragraph Your Petitioners are appealing to you for a careful consideration of their case, knowing that they your, Petitioners have spent almost all their lives in services which brought up these plantations, and that your Petitioners are suffering now as a direct results of war which though not affecting their usefulness to the continuous and progressive history of the plantations, have brought in financial anomalies, such as we now petition against.

Now that your Petitioners on the eve of their retirement should have sufficient remuneration to help meet the rest of their retired life as peaceful and happy as the industry which graces the history of their years under employment apply justifies.

9. That your Petitioners in soliciting a most careful consideration of this petition would like to stress these that they are family owners and as the reason for their forced retirement confirms, your Petitioners ages are such as make another start in life as wage-earners almost impossible.

10. That from the foregoing paragraphs, your Petitioners have tried to show you the extent ot which they have contributed towards, the continous progress of the Plantations during the Germans, and the parts they have played in offering the Cameroons Developement Corporation concrete on which the firmness of the foundation as a commercial concern depends; the amount of devotion we have given, the discharge of our duties and the frustation in shich such awards as the Corporation has given throws us.

11. That in conclusion your Petitioners humbly beg that if it be possible for you to help in the matter of augmenting their gratuitous awards, you do so.

/Or, if it

Or, if it be possible for you to act as an urge towards influencing the augmenting of same by the Cameroons Developement Corporation (In defeat of the argument - as per information - contained in paragraphs 6 & 7 above) you do so.

Your Petitioners dependent on your mercies.

Ever pray to remain.

Yours very gratefully.

(Sgd) Jacob Mbwange xx
Ataba xx

Motumba xx
Wilson xx

c.c. The Commissioner of the Cameroons, Buea,
The Senior Resident, Cameroons Province, Buea,
Dr. E.M.L. Endeley, Buea.

For information please.

Received at United Nations Headquarters:

22 October 1951
