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PETITION FROM THE CAMEROONS NATIONAL FEDERATION
CONCERNING THE CAMEROONS UNDER BRITISH AND
UNDER FRENCH ADMINISTRATION

MTD

115

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 4 November 1949 from the Cameroons National Federation 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.

COPY

CAMEROONS NATIONAL FEDERATION

Declaration

The attached Memorandum has been prepared and compiled under our directions, and is in complete accord with our wishes, and its contents having been carefully read over and explained to us, we have expressed our satisfaction with its entire contents and adopted same for presentation to the Visiting Mission of the Trusteeship Council of the United Nations Organisation in the Cameroons (Under United Kingdom Trusteeship), in November, 1949, and hereby subscribe our Signatures or Thumb marks thereto on behalf of ourselves, our respective organisations, and our tribesmen:

Name in full		Signature or Mark	Organisation
1. M.L. Mbame	(Sgd.)	M. L. MBAME	Bakweri Improvement Union
2. N. M. Ewusi	"	N. M. EWUSI	"
3. D.M.I. Endeley	"	D.M.L. ENDELEY (Secretary)	Bakweri Land Committee
4. G. P. Malafa	"	G. P. MALAFA	"
5. H. E. Devine	"	----(illegible) (Vice President)	Cameroons Dev. Corprts Workers' Union
6. P.K. Johnson	"	P. K. JOHNSON	"
7. J. A. Mukete	"	J. A. Mukete	Bafaw Improvement Union
8. G. I. Mbongo	"	G. I. MBONGO	"
9. D.M.Mukete	"	D. M. MUKETE	Bakundu Improvement Union
10. H. N. Mulango	"	H. N. MULANGO (Pres.)	"
11. D.B.Livingstone	"	D. B. LIVINGSTONE (Sec.)	Balondo Improvement Union
12. S. A. Ebanja	"	S. A. EBANJA (Pres.)	"
13. E.F. Ebai	"	E. F. EBAI (Sect.)	Balong Tribal Union
14. W.I. Bakoma	"	W. I. BAKOMA (Pres.)	"
15. P. Susa	"	P. SUSA	Balue Improvement Union
16. -	-	-	"
17. K. Achan de Bohn	"	K. ACHABIN DE 'BOHN	All - Bakossi Improvement League

Name in full	Signature or Mark	Organisation
18. -	(Sgd.) -	"
19. Simon Kang	Thumb X Mark	Dakossi Land Committee
20. M. O. Asuqua	M. O. ASUQUO	"
21. Namaso Mbile	NAMASO MBILE	Ngolo-Batanga-Bima-Balondopadiko Improv. Union
22. M. M. Noto	M. M. NOTO	"
23. -	E. NGASONA	Mbonge Improv. Union
24. E. A. Anjeh	----- (illegible)	"
25. -	-	Isangele Farming Association
26. F. T. Tambe	FRED T. TAMBE	"
27. D. O. Nchor	D. O. NCHOR	Ejagham Improvement Union
28. M. A. Asongwe	MARTIN A. ASONGWED (Pres.)	"
29. P. A. Fongu	----- (illegible)	Bamenda Improvement Association
30. -	-	"
31. -	-	Dali Improvement Union
32. Rahael Nana	RAPH NANA	"
33. Joseph Fofu	Thumb X Mark	Baminyang Improvement Union
34. Jacob Fon	Thumb X Mark	Mbu Improvement Union
35. Nyango	Thumb X Mark	"
36. John Zama	JOHN ZAMA	Bamenda Imp. Ass. Kumba
37. Chief Michael Ngasa	MICHEAL GASA	Grassfield Nat. Union
38. -	-	-
39. S. A. Arrey	S. --- ARREY	Secretary, Mamfe Improvement Union, Victoria Branch
40. -	-	-

Dated this 4th day of November, 1949, at Kumba.

(Signed) ----- (illegible) (Signed) ----- (illegible)

PRESIDENT

SECRETARY

CAMEROONS NATIONAL FEDERATION

Received at United Nations Headquarters: 22 November 1949

/CAMEROONS

CAMEROONS NATIONAL FEDERATION

MEMORANDUM TO THE TRUSTEESHIP COUNCIL OF THE UNITED NATIONS ORGANISATIONS,

Through the Visiting Mission to the Cameroons in November 1949,

By the Cameroons National Federation, founded at Kumba, May 14th, 1949.

INTRODUCTION

The Cameroons National Federation, founded at Kumba on May 14th, 1949, during an All Cameroons Conference attended by representatives of over fifteen tribal Unions and all ethnic groups in the British Cameroons, is a Federation of all progressive Tribal Unions, Leagues, Committee, and other organisations of Cameroons indigenous natives of the territory under United Kingdom Trusteeship, with provision to enlist any indigenous native organisation existing anywhere in the Trusteeship Territory of the Cameroons whether British or French, coming up for membership.

At the moment, the Federation consists of some seventeen organisations, sixteen from the British, and one from the French, but all resident in the British Territory.

Among the delegates at the Innaugural Conference of the Cameroons National Federation were Natural Rulers, Tribal Leaders, Businessmen, Trade Unionists, Journalists, Schoolmasters, Farmers, Students, etc.

The following were the foundation member Unions of the Federation who were represented by at least five delegates per Union at the Innaugural Conference.

VICTORIA DIVISION

The Bakweri Improvement Union

The Bakweri Land Claim Committee.

The Cameroons Development Corporation Workers' Union.

KUMBA DIVISION

The Bafaw Improvement Union

The Bakundu Improvement Union.

The Balondo Improvement Union

The Baleng Tribal Union.

The Balue Improvement Union.

The All Bakossi Improvement League.

The Bakossi Land Claim Committee,

The Ngolo-Batanga-Bima-Balondobadiko Improvement Union.

The Mbonge Improvement Union.

The Isangele Farming Association.

MAMFE DIVISION

The Ejagham Improvement Union.

The Mamfe Improvement Union, Victoria-

/BAMENDA DIVISION

BAMENDA DIVISION

The Bamenda Improvement Association

The Bali Improvement Union.

FRENCH CAMEROONS

The Baminyang Improvement Union, Kumba.

Significant among the decisions taken at this Conference of the Cameroons National Federation, was a resolution for submission of a memorandum on some of the most acute problems of the Trust Territory of the Cameroons, to the Trusteeship Council of the United Nations Organisation, through its Visiting Mission to the Cameroons, in November 1949, in accordance with the stipulations of Article 84 of the Rules of Procedure of the Trusteeship Council.

In fulfilment of that decision therefore, the Conference-in-Session drafted the following memorandum for submission through the visiting Mission of the Trusteeship Council of the United Nations Organisation the highest authority and supreme guardian of this territory, its peoples and its resources, while it is yet immature to assume the full status of an independent or Self-governing State.

We forward these submissions to the Trusteeship Council with a view that pressure may be brought to bear on the Administering Authorities of the Cameroons Territory to accelerate their rate of development of the territory as a whole with due regard to advancing the material, social, educational and political welfare of its inhabitants in fulfilment of the basic objectives of the International Trusteeship system with particular reference to Article 76 (b) and (c) of the United Nations Charter, and the provisions and terms of each trusteeship agreement.

Briefly, our submissions fall under the following categories:

A. EDUCATION

For over thirty years since the Cameroons became a Mandated and later a Trust Territory, under United Kingdom Administration, the highest Government educational Institution in the Territory is a Centre for the Training of Teachers for the Elementary Certificate, the minimum qualification in Nigeria to entitle one to the situation of Schoolmaster started in 1932 and raised to Higher Elementary standard in 1947. Along with this, there are some five Government Primary Schools. There is not a single Government Secondary School in the Territory, after nearly thirty-five years of British stay, while for the same period the French have in their section, some sixteen Secondary schools flourishing. So far,

/the only

the only avenue through which Cameroons youths have been acquiring secondary and higher education is by studying in Nigerian secondary schools, where on the average, it has been thrice as expensive for the Cameroons student as for his local Nigerian comerade. At the moment, the only existing Secondary school in the British Cameroons is that established about 1940, by the Roman Catholic Mission, a voluntary Agency - The St. Joseph's College, Sasse. There is a feverish attempt by the Basel Mission (Swiss) to rival the Catholic to establish another at Bali in Bamenda this year.

On the part of women, the position is far worse, as there is not a single Government girls school in the entire territory and the only existing girl schools are run by Foreign voluntary Missionary Agencies, the Roman Catholic Mission, and the Swiss Basel Mission, while a sprinkling of girls is generally mixed in the five boy schools mentioned above. Till date, all girls from this Territory have had to go over to Nigeria for their Secondary Education and Teachers Certificates.

But for the commendable part the Missionary bodies are playing in the Cameroons in the field of Education, the picture would have been completely different from what it now is, with regard to Elementary education, while with respect to secondary education, the prospects of a college could have been still remote if not completely absent, for this territory.

The general opinion in the Cameroons is that Britain as the Administering Authority of this territory has completely failed to abide by the stipulations of Article XII of her Trusteeship Agreement, which declares:-

"The Administering Authority shall, as may be appropriate to the circumstances of the Territory, continue and extend a general system of Elementary education designed to abolish illiteracy and population, child and adult, and shall similarly provide such facilities as may prove desirable and practicable in the interest of the inhabitants for qualified students to receive secondary and higher education, including professional training."

B. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Ater three decades of British Administration of the Cameroons, Economic Development of the people in the opinion of competent authorities, has not made the slightest advance from where the Germans left it. The tempo at which the Germans left the Cameroons on this particular item died down as a result of the general neglect of the Cameroons by Britain since it took over after the World War 1 - a fact which has been admitted by the Secretary of State himself (vide Hansard, 20th July 1944). "An

/undeveloped

undeveloped people in an undeveloped country devoid of education particularly industrial, have been left to "develop their own initiative towards their economic advancement", without the necessary pre-requisites towards such development.

The result is that the Cameroons plantations offered the feasible avenue of earning a living for a great percentage of the illiterate and semi-illiterate population. The moment a boy attains manhood, his first venture outside his home is into the plantations, and when it is realized how wages in these plantations sustain only a hand to mouth existence, it can be appreciated what the prospects of the Cameroons plantation workers have, in the field of economic development, and what contribution he makes with his wages, into the country's general economy.

On the other hand, where an answer could have come against the plight of the illiterate Cameroonian, Government has not created the prerequisite by providing ample education, especially agricultural, technical and commercial, to enable development of individual initiative towards economic advancement.

The sprinkling of educated youths in the country are generally absorbed as teachers and clerks, and with the starvation wages and salaries earned, there is just no possibility of raising any capital towards embarkation upon any individual enterprise of note.

As a preliminary to firm economic development of the country, Agricultural, Technical and Commercial education are indispensable necessities, about which the Administering Authority has for thirty-five years, done practically nothing. The oft repeated charge of arm-chair critics that the Cameroonian is lazy and lacks initiative is absolutely groundless, because in the absence of these indispensable fundamentals towards economic advancement, how else could the Cameroons native be. Besides, there are terrific forces like the plantations snatching off the illiterate youths, while the educated ones are absorbed by Government, Mission, and Commercial firms as clerks or teachers. The result is that, such young men as are left in the villages are either those who are unfit for European employment, or otherwise engaged in the activities of the normal village life - working on the small family farm, or hunting or fishing to support the ageing parents.

Sometimes, however, one finds some cocoa, palm produce, etc. exported from the territory, but this is generally too negligible to affect to any appreciable extent, the general economy of the country.

/Also, there

Also, there are a number of young men who have acquired some education, and who possess a considerable amount of initiative, but who lack the initial capital with which to embark upon any worth-while economic project.

Some Government authorities when questioned regarding lack of economic development in the Cameroons, have been noticed to delight in passing the buck to the Cameroons native as being lazy, lethargic, and lacking initiative. The question then arises, as to what the Administering Authority has done to combat this alleged laziness and lethargy. Taxes in Nigeria for example are lower than taxes in the Cameroons, and yet the Cameroonian regularly pays his tribute from which he reaps practically no appreciable benefit. Is the Cameroonian by nature and blood lazy? If so, have the French the same complaints against the natives in their section of the Cameroons who happen to be of the same racial stock as the British Cameroonian?

There are certain basic fundamentals towards individual human development which must be created for the citizen by the ruling power, otherwise, individual development among a backward people cannot be possible. For example, the ruling power must amply provide schools to educate the natives on how to emerge from the simple peasant or plantation labourer's hand to mouth existence into civilized and fuller living in keeping with the status of developed man. After the schools which provide the knowledge, there must be an avenue of raising capital through employment with reasonable earnings. In the absence of these provisos, it is regarded a capital and ridiculous attempt to evade world condemnation on the part of the Administering Authority to accuse the Cameroons native of "laziness, and lack of initiative", with regards his economic advancement.

The Cameroons National Federation is convinced that the Administering Authority has manifested a shocking amount of negligence towards developing the Cameroons economically, and submits here that the United Nations through the Trusteeship Council be requested to bring pressure to bear on Britain with a view to urging her to accelerate her present rate of economic development of the Camercons.

C. HEALTH.

Of the most urgent and pressing problems in the Cameroons today, there is hardly any which is more acute than the health question. That some 900,000 people have only some four to five Medical Officers to attend to their health, is enough to impress upon any one, the horrible state of affairs in the Cameroons today, on the point of the people's health.

/There are

There are in the territory only four to five Government Hospitals, and of these, only one deserves to be called a hospital. The others are little or no better than dispensaries with appalling conditions for patients. For example, at Kumba, the only hospital for about 100,000 people in the nine tribes of Kumba Division, there is neither water nor light for the patients. Patients therefore bathe in a muddy little brook by the wayside, to the daily disgust of the local populace. At night, those who can provide themselves with small bush lamps use them, while those who cannot, sleep with the sun and wake with the same in complete blackout.

Hospitals are so grossly inadequate for the populations that it is not unusual for a tribesman who has walked sixty miles or more to reach a hospital with, for instance an operation case, to be told to go back and come the following season, as the Doctor's list is often full for months. A number of Native Authority Dispensaries established in some districts in the territory are just better than nothing, in that they can only, treat minor cases like scabies, ringworm, small sores, and ailments requiring only a simple purge.

Throughout the territory, sickness is prevalent, the most horrible being leprosy. This terrible disease is extremely rampant particularly in Mamfe Division where some authorities declare that at least 25 per cent of the population are affected. Recently, a Leper Colony was closed down at Mamfe by the Government and two hundred lepers were let loose on the healthy population again. The Colony had been started by a young man who himself had been a leper, but who had been cured at the Church of Scotland Leper Colony, at Itu, Nigeria. He had persuaded two hundred lepers to leave their homes and leave by themselves with him at his little colony where, applying his experience in leprosy curing gained at Itu, he succeeded in curing four men who were pronounced clean by a Government Medical Officer, and awarded Health Certificates. He later succeeded in persuading the local Native Authority to help the scheme with a subsistence allowance of 5/- per leper per month. The people were therefore shocked when Government ordered the closing down of the colony, and the disbanding of the lepers.

Almost all over the territory, the sick and healthy live together; lepers and clean eat, live, and drink together with the healthy population, yet Government merely looks on. For instance, after the Mamfe leper colony had been closed, the people protested to the Governor in a welcome address during his visit to the Cameroons in November 1948, but to the best of our knowledge, nothing has been done.

/There is

There is today, a general and progressive extinction of the Cameroons people noticeable in almost every tribe, as a result of this unconcern about the people's health. This is as true as it is alarming, but it is a grim reality that we must face.

The Cameroons National Federation is solemnly placing it before the United Nations, the Supreme Guardian of this territory, that unless something is done, and that right now, about the health of the Cameroons people, particularly about the horrible leprosy plague, the Cameroons race might die out before the expiration of this century.

All villages and tribes are fast shrinking in size, and in numbers. We are alarmed. Our very existence on earth as a race is seriously threatened. We appeal to the United Nations Organisation to intervene quickly.

D. ADMINISTRATION

After thirty years now, the Cameroons people have realised that the system of administering the Cameroons as an appendage to a Region in Nigeria had not been to their best interests. The system is most unsatisfactory, in that it does not only shut the Cameroons out of the notice of the Administering Authority, but even more, tends to create in the Cameroons loss of the fact, as distinct from Nigeria, the Cameroons as a Trust territory, is an International Concern. Instead of arresting the direct attention of the Administering Authority which has pledged before the United Nations to hold the Cameroons in trust for humanity, and develop her in accordance with the terms of the Trusteeship Agreement, the system of administering the Cameroons as a part of the Eastern Provinces of Nigeria has for the last thirty years earned for the territory, nothing but shocking neglect.

The general demand by the Cameroons people has therefore been, the constitution of the Cameroons into a distinct region of its own under a High Commissioner who will be directly responsible to the Governor in Lagos. The basic objectives has been the constitution of an assembly which will enable the unity of all sections of the Trust Territory North and South, French and British and a free discussion of their common problems as a Trust Territory and a fore-runner to the provision of article 76(b) and (c) of the UNO Charter.

The excuse on the part of the Administering Authority for refusing to grant the Cameroons Regional status, based on an alleged financial incapacity of the Cameroons to constitute a region is unacceptable, because, first, if after thirty years of British rule the Cameroons is still

/financially

financially, none-self-supporting, what guarantee is there that she will become self-supporting by continuing under the same system.

Secondly, if Government allows the Cameroons to be the perpetual financial liability on the rest of the Eastern Provinces, of Nigeria, what prevents Government from allowing the Cameroons to be the financial liability on the rest of Nigeria, by granting us our demanded Regional Status.

Thirdly, it strikes us as strange that Government should be unwilling to consider a change in the system of administering the Cameroons as part of the Eastern Provinces of Nigeria, when it fully admits its failure by declaring the Cameroons financially non-self-supporting, after over thirty years under this administrative system.

And Fourthly, all Cameroonians are fully convinced that without taxes, our full share of the Colonial Development grants, our profits from the Cameroons Development Corporation, we shall be fully financially self-supporting, or if we are not, and the Administering Authority cannot do something of itself to alleviate the position, we shall, in our capacity as Trust Territory, appeal to the United Nations Organisation.

If all the Cameroons as one man are opposed to the present Administrative system which derogates us into an appendage to a Region in the Colony and Protectorate of Nigeria, it is because of the absence of direct representation to the Legislative Council of Nigeria, through this faulty system. Owing to the undemocratic system of Electoral Colleges in the legislative system of the country as a result of the unpopular Richards Constitution, the Cameroons lost representation to the Legislative through the Eastern House of Assembly where out of some fifteen members, only two chiefs are representing the Cameroons. During the election from among their numbers for five men to go into the Legislative Council in Lagos, the Cameroons representatives were conspicuously left out. In order that some at least of our numerous problems and grievances might reach the Legislative Council, Cameroons youths submitted memoranda through men like Dr. Nnamdi Azikiwe for submission to the Governor-in-Council. How then could this system of administering the Territory be said to be to our best interest when we are not directly represented in the Country's Legislature. In what way is Britain promoting our progressive development towards self-government or independence, when we are denied one of the basic principles of democracy-representation.

The gravity of the situation can be more vividly appreciated, when it is realised that the French have provided their section of the Cameroons representation in the Highest French Assembly, equivalent to the British Parliament.

/In the event

In the event of a separate region for the Cameroons, the following shall be obvious:-

1. There shall be greater attention on the territory from the Administering Authority, and consequently development shall be concentrated.
2. Through growing by itself, the Cameroons shall retain its identity as a Trust Territory, an International Concern, and shall finally work towards unification with its brothers under the French - the dream of every living Cameroonian.
3. And finally, there shall be permanently guaranteed for the territory, direct representation to the Legislative Council in Lagos, since as a Region, it shall be entitled to send a number of representatives to the Legislative Council of Nigeria.

It is the unanimous and ardent desire of the Cameroons peoples that the selection of members for the Legislative Council as well for the Regional Houses, be by direct election, as against the present undemocratic system of nomination by Government, or by Government controlled Councils.

The most democratic and progressive institutions in the country today, are the tribal Unions, Leagues, and Committees, because the Executives and leaders of these bodies, are chosen by democratic elections which are won through outstanding personal merit. The Cameroons National Federation is an amalgamation of all these single units into a workable National Force, on the lines of the National Council of Nigeria and the Cameroons.

The Cameroons National Federation therefore submits that the Administering Authority be asked to give the utmost support and recognition to these most democratic institutions in the country, and thereby endeavour to abide by the stipulations of Article VI of the Trusteeship Agreement.

E. COMMUNICATIONS

"Shocking neglect of the Cameroons" on the part of the Administering Authority, is a charge which has never been successfully refuted by her, and one which candid British Officials no less than the Secretary of State himself have fully acknowledged guilt.

Communications in this Territory have been badly neglected. Until 1947, there was in the Cameroons no link by motorable road connecting the four Divisions that constitute the Southern Cameroons. In fact, during the last war, vehicles had to go via French territory, in order to reach Bamenda from Victoria and Kumba, and it is possibly this humiliation before the French and the realisation of what the fate of the British might have been with regards to communication within the Cameroons if France had been a neutral or enemy territory, that hastened the completion of the

/Kumba-Mamfe

Kumba-Mamfe road which thus linked Victoria to Bamenda, in 1947.

In fact up till 1947, the only sure means of road communication to link the Cameroons was a foot path through dense tropical forests over creaking hammock bridges suspended across angry torrents. Now, we have the south to north, "one way traffic" Victoria to Bamenda road, merely linking up the four Divisional headquarters, while the mass of tribes still lie left or right of this road shut out of civilisation.

A majority of the tribes in the Cameroons are not in touch with any motorable road and so, most of the tribes have no link with the West. For example, in Victoria Division, the Bamboko tribe is completely shut in. In Kumba Division, out of the ten principal tribes, Bafaw, Bakossi, Bakundu, Balong, Barombi, Balondo, Balue, Mbonge, Ngolo-Batanga, Baima and Isangele, only three of them are partly touched by seasonal roads, while the other seven are completely shut in. The situation is no better in Mamfe or Bamenda sections.

Where however there is feeble attempt to construct branch roads, for instance the 30 mile Mbonge to Kumba, or the 33 mile Kumba to Tombel road to act as feeders to the main south to north road, they are only seasonal, and no bridges are built over rivers intercepting them. Pontoon Bridges made of planks nailed across a number of canoes form the ferries. There is a pontoon bridge at the Meme River 20 miles west of Kumba, and another at the Mungo River some 15 miles east of Kumba, and every rainy season witnesses a ghastly accident on one of these rafts, when a vehicle plunges into the raging floods, with several lives and much property lost. Accidents are so common on these frail crafts that it is no longer news to hear of "an accident at the Mungo Ferry".

Having laid a main South to north road connecting Victoria with Bamenda, the next thing is feeder roads to open up the shut in tribes. A good strip of road from Ndian a river port 85 miles South East of Calabar in the Baima are in Kumba Division, to Banyemen, midway between Kumba and Mamfe will constitute an excellent feeder from the West as it would connect Calabar with the very heart of the Cameroons, and enhance trade in the area immensely. The completion of a road into north Bakossi in Kumba Division, along with the bridging of the Mungo river require the most urgent attention.

In Mamfe and Bamenda, feeder roads are urgently required to open up the country. A good strip into Bangwa and another into the depth of "Overside" across the Cross River in Mamfe shall serve the needs of the struggling "Oversides" immensely. Branches left to right of the Mamfe to Bamenda road shall open up the tribes lying disconnected in these parts.

/The establishment

The establishment of a telegraph line to connect all the principal towns in the Territory can hardly be over emphasised. At present there is no direct telegraphic link between Buea and Mamfe or Mamfe and Kumba except through Lagos by wireless.

We are fully aware of the tremendous cost the installation of most of these requirements shall entail, but we contend that any nation which undertakes to develop others must be conscious of its responsibilities, some of which usually may border upon sacrifices, and if the Administering Authority has been sleeping over its responsibilities all these years, then it must be prepared to clear up heavy arrears of development, now that the time of stock-taking has come.

If there is anything more necessary to foster development in the Cameroons, it is communications. No Nation ever developed without communications to connect its villages and peoples. The Cameroons will remain backward, economically, educationally and politically for another 50 years if communications remain undeveloped.

We want more roads, we want permanent bridges, we want railways, we want telephonic communications between our towns, in short we want to enjoy with the rest of mankind, all the blessings of science, learning and invention. We want to live, not merely exist.

F. LAND

"No native land or natural resources", declares Article VIII of the Trusteeship Agreement, "may be transferred, except between natives", or with their previous consent.

But one needs only come round to the Cameroons to see the complete violation of this important Article of the Trusteeship Agreement. For lands have not only been transferred to non-natives, but have been seized and lavishly exploited by non-natives. All over the territory, lands have been taken by one Agent or the other, until there is now a general outcry against land seizures in several parts of the Territory. We live in dread of a repetition of the East African problem in the Cameroons.

In Victoria Division, the Bakweri Land case is already an old story in the Trusteeship Council. Then comes that of the Bwenga people questionably acquired by the United Africa Company (U.A.C.), and exploited for its exclusive profits. Next come the Victoria land a great section of which is being claimed by the Basel Mission which in turn gives it out to natives and collects exorbitant rents. Of late, the Basel Mission is understood to have sold a considerable section of the land at Victoria, and scores of native inhabitants who had been made to pay rents for building on the land for several years now, are threatened with mass ejection. It is

/authentically

authentically understood that the Basel Mission, a Swiss Mission, has sold this land to the Union Trading Company, a Swiss firm.

The people of Bonjongo and Sasse have also protested through the Federation against the giving out and collection of rents from the natives for land, in the hands of Roman Catholic Mission operating in those parts of Victoria Division.

And lastly, the Bakweri people although not opposed to the establishment of the Cameroons Development Corporation which is developing the lands for the general benefit of the peoples of the Cameroons, nevertheless desire the return of enough land to the natives for individual development, along with other rights demanded on their behalf by the Bakweri Land Claim Committee.

With respect to the lands now under Elders and Fyffes at Likomba, the people are certainly not satisfied that the firm should exploit these lands for its exclusive profits, and request that the Administering Authority should buy off these lands and hand them over to the Cameroons Development Corporation to develop along with the rest, for the general benefit of the people of the Cameroons.

In Kumba Division, there are a number of cases of questionable acquisition of native lands by non-natives. Prominent among these are the Bakossi Land Case, the Bai Land under United Africa Company, the Mlian Estate under United Africa Company, and a number of Reserves created against the expressed wishes of the local inhabitants. Owing to their significant and special nature, the representatives of the local natives were, as members of the Cameroons National Federation, advised to present distinct petitions to be presented to the Visiting Mission, along with this memorandum.

It is also felt that the Mamfe people are still not satisfied with Government regarding the lands constituting the Besongabang aerodrome, and the Administering Authority is being expected to implement the claims for compensation etc., to the local native owners of the land now acquired for public use.

RESERVES

The question of Reserves requires special attention, because, several reports have been received from a number of tribes and localities which all go to show that there is definite taking up of lands for Reserves by Agents of the Administering Authority without the sanction or consent of the indigenous owners of these lands.

The Federation is of the opinion that, if this Reservation of land and forests is at all in the interest of the people, Government itself

/has given rise

has given rise to the suspicion in the native mind, for at no time have the people experienced Government to be so fanatical about an affair in the interest of the people, in the face of such opposition from the people. Roads and schools are generally realised as most essential agents for the development and advancement of undeveloped peoples, and yet Government has never been known to be so rigorous in the establishment of a school, or the construction of a road anywhere, in the face of such determined opposition from the people. That Government should introduce Reserves all over the Cameroons despite the keen resentment and opposition of the local natives, to the extent of conviction of a number of persons for obstructing, or defying such reservation, therefore looks most unnatural and gives rise to the general distrust of Government intention in the creation of Reserves.

When it is further remembered that in the Cameroons the "whiteman" has been generally accepted as "a great land grabber and a consumer of great tracks of land for a single farm", it will be fully appreciated why the Cameroons people, in fact the African in general, are so unwilling to hand over his land for preservation to the whiteman, whether he poses for a plantation owner, a Forestry Officer, or a Christian Missionary. How, argues the Cameroonian can a flock of sheep be handed to a wolf, for safe-keeping, and why should the wolf be so persistent in being allowed to keep the sheep, when such safe-keeping is merely for the sheep's own benefit.

The Cameroons National Federation is therefore of the opinion that Forest Reserves should only be created with the fully expressed wishes and consent of the people and their complete conviction that they are necessary. Documents bearing the signatures or finger prints of puppet and ignorant chiefs shall not be counteranced, as no one person chief or no chief can exercise right over what belongs to the community. Land is the inalienable communal possession of the indigenous natives, no more for the ruler than for the commoner.

UNIFICATION.

If ever there is an injustice more than any other done the Cameroons people by the European ruler, it is the Division of the Cameroons between the Britain and France, without as much as consultation with the people who have thus been adversely affected by this division. In the sharing of the Cameroons between Britain and France, not the slightest regard was paid to the effect it would have on the native populations, for tribes and even families were split in the process, and the disruption created in the lives of the people, can be more imagined than described, when the boundary restrictions came into force.

/It became necessary

It became necessary for a boundary dweller to travel scores of miles to the respective Headquarters of the reigning power, in order to obtain a passport to legally allow him to visit a relative or a friend only a few yards from his home, across the border.

In certain places and districts, there has been utter confusion as to which side the native belongs, with the result that it is not infrequent for man in certain border tribes e.g. the Bakossi tribe, to be made to pay taxes to the British as well as to the French collectors. This submission was presented by a representative of the Bakossi tribe at the Conference of the Cameroons National Federation, as his tribe the Bakossi, lying on the border, suffered the most lamentable bisection when the partition was created but it affects the Bamum and Chang tribes. In these tribes, women carrying baskets of food to friends or relatives only a few yards from their homes across the border could be arrested by either the British or the French Customs offices, for not carrying passports, which are obtainable at the Administrative Headquarters of the ruling powers, many miles from their homes. And, so more than any one else, the border dweller suffers most touchingly, as a result of this partitioning since his very freedom of movement to visit friends or relatives is restricted.

These boundary restrictions also have a retarding effect on the economic advancement of the Cameroons people, particularly the British section which is smaller. Since the petty trader fares best when he enjoys free latitude of movement over a reasonably wide area, the Cameroons trader loses this advantage, as his movement among people of his own racial stock is restricted by the boundary regulations of the two foreign powers. The freedom of movement therefore that is such a necessary and contributory factor to the progress of the trader, is severely hampered for the Cameroons enterpriser.

The Cameroons having cried in vain against this gross injustice against their race by Western Powers, the individual has adopted two methods of resisting and surviving this foreign and unpopular imposition. The first is what can be regarded as mass immigration of Cameroonians from the French section to join their brothers under the British. Thousands have crossed and settled in most of the towns as well as villages in the British section, and their brothers welcome them, and allocate to them, land on which to settle and to farm. Many of the immigrants are absorbed into the plantations in the Territory.

The second method adopted by the people to ensure their survival is through smuggling which is a form of resistance against the unpopular restrictions to trade and free movement within their own country and

/among their own

among their own people. The Cameroons people, convinced of the injustice to their race and country by the partition of their once united people, and conscious that the frontier regulations are the means of perpetuating this partitioning, they have been forced out of sheer circumstance not to regard smuggling as an evil, but as a means of resisting an unpopular foreign imposition.

The partition of the Cameroons and the introduction of all the boundary restrictions and frontier regulations between British and French Cameroons, no matter their importance to the ruling powers or their Governments, are to the Cameroons people a moral injustice. It creates the Cameroons into a race whose nationals, after being split from their friends and relatives, are taught different foreign languages, and different foreign customs, which estrange them one from the other.

The Cameroons National Federation on behalf of the Cameroons people is appealing to World Opinion through the United Nations Organisation, to right this injustice against its peoples. We were never defeated in a war as to permit ourselves to be treated as a defeated race. It is Germany that was defeated, and not the Cameroons. If the United Nations can justify this partition then they regard that the Cameroons was Germany's property, which it was not, because Cameroonians are human beings, created to live as such, in accordance with Article 73 (a) and 76 (c) of the United Nations Charter.

CODIFICATION OF NATIVE LAWS

Among the institutions in the country requiring the most drastic reform is the machinery of local Government - the Native Authority system. For many years, the Native Authority system based on traditional law has been the instrument of local Government in the Cameroons, but all along the Native Laws which are being used in running the machinery of local Government, and in dispensing justice in the Native Courts, have never been codified.

The result is that there is much falsification of Native Laws, that individuals, especially the influential, could interpret Native Laws, to suit their whims. It follows that unless an attempt was made right now to codify Native Laws, there is bound to be a complete disagreement very soon, over the correct interpretation of most of these laws, and local Government dispensation of Native Justice which are based on them might drift to a chaotic state. Already contradictions are springing up among the elders over the interpretation of laws, while the youth, deprived of the fundamental knowledge of these tend to flout or disregard them, in preference to foreign laws.

/The danger

The danger therefore arises that unless there is a regular and codified system of the Native Laws, it would soon be impossible not only to operate the machinery of local Government, but also to check upon the Administering Authority, as to her violation or not of certain articles of the Trusteeship Agreement, based on respect for Native Laws and Customs, in the event of a dispute with the indigenous people, over the implementation of the Trusteeship Agreement.

LABOUR SITUATION.

In view of the fact that a considerable percentage of the Cameroons population falls under the labouring class, as a result of the enormous plantations in the territory, the condition of the Cameroons worker is a situation whose significance cannot be overlooked. In setting down, therefore, any scheme intended for the progress and general benefit of the people of the Cameroons, the labourer's fate cannot be ignored. In Victoria Division, the workers comprise half the population, and in Kumba, they comprise a reasonable percentage of the population.

Owing to this proportion, therefore, of the working class, in relation to the total population, it has been experienced and generally accepted that any general improvement in the living condition of the working class, particularly the plantation labourer, affects almost immediately, the general standard of living among quite a considerable section of the country.

This was the experience when the Germans ran the Cameroons plantations, for almost in every household in a great part of the territory, one always noticed something that was a constant reminder of the presence of a link between the labourer in the plantation, and his relatives at home. For wooden bowls that had been the general domestic containers, pails and enamel-wares were being used. Even in the remotest villages, men in clean cotton shirts and trousers, and women in their gaudily coloured frocks, streamed in and out of the village churches, on Sundays and on festive days.

We therefore submit that in sharing the profits accruing from the plantations for the general benefit of the peoples of the Cameroons primary consideration should be given to improvement of the present starving wage paid to the plantation employees.

THE CAMEROONS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION.

Following the passing of a Bill in the Nigerian Legislative Council in Lagos in 1946, there was instituted, a Corporation called, the Cameroons Development Corporation, whose functions are to develop the ex-German plantations, bought over by the Nigerian Government, and leased to this
/Corporation,

Corporation, to develop for the general benefit of the people of the Cameroons.

The people of the Cameroons fully accept the Cameroons Development Corporation in principle, and congratulate the Administering Authority on the progressive and laudable gesture towards Cameroons advancement, she has put forward for the Cameroons, through the Nigerian Government.

The people however feel that the Corporation is yet to prove itself as working for the general development of the people of the Cameroons, by practical proofs which appeal more to the local native, than theoretical plans and proposals.

It is felt that in a Corporation that is for the benefit of the people of the Cameroons, there must be representatives of the people, chosen by some popular election, on the Corporation's Board of Management. Further, in the disbursement of the annual profits, there ought to be some consultation with the people, with a view to getting their suggestions and ascertaining their greatest needs.

The Cameroons National Federation fails to understand why, rents on the lands are paid to the Nigerian Government, when the lands have been declared native lands, and are being developed for the natives. While Government refuses the Cameroons Regional status on the ground of inability on the part of the Cameroons to be financially self-supporting, why should thousands of pounds be sent out of the Territory, under the strange name of "Taxes". We demand that all revenue accruing from the Cameroons Development Corporation in the way of the annual profits etc. be completely used for the development of the Cameroons. We believe firmly now that the question of finance is not responsible for our being refused Regional status, because, if it is true that the Cameroons has no money, why should revenue be leaving the Cameroons into Nigeria in terms of hundreds of thousands of pounds?

In 1947, the Cameroons Development Corporation alone paid £367,000 to the Nigerian Central Revenue as Company's Tax and £209,000 in 1948. While Rents for the land for 1947 and 1948 amounted to £60,690. It can be seen, therefore, that within only 2 years the Cameroons Development Corporation alone has paid into the Nigerian Revenue well over half a Million Pounds (£636,690).

E. M. L. ENDELEY
President.

N. M. MBILE
Secretary.

CAMEROONS NATIONAL FEDERATION

RESOLUTIONS TAKEN AT THE INAUGURAL CONFERENCE,
Kumba, British Cameroons, May 14th & 15th, 1949.

EDUCATION

A motion tabled at the Cameroons National Federation Conference on May 15th 1949, by D. O. Mchor Esq. Secretary of the Ejagham Improvement Union, Mamfe, seconded by Chief E. S. Ebanja, President of the Balong Tribal Union, and unanimously carried by the Federation-in-Conference, read:

"Whereas, after nearly thirty-five years of British stay in this territory, it is the considered opinion of the Cameroons National Federation that Government has done very little to fulfill her pledge to the United Nations to afford Elementary, Secondary and Higher education to the inhabitants of this territory.

Be it Resolved,

"That the United Nations through the Trusteeship Council is requested to bring pressure to bear upon the Administering Authority, to provide amply for the territory, Primary, Secondary and Higher Educational Institutions. That Technical as well as Commercial schools be established, and at least fifty scholarships for Higher Education be provided each year, no less than ten of these being Oversea scholarships. The greater attention be paid to female education by the establishment of at least four Secondary schools, and that both English and French be taught in all schools in the British and French Cameroons;

"That in the choice of scholarships, Government should respect the choice and opinion of the people;

"That free and compulsory primary education for both males and females be enforced, and that projects for mass education for adults be introduced;

"That in the award of scholarships by the Nigerian Government, a special number be allocated for the Cameroons, since the present method of scrambling for scholarships with more educationally advanced Nigeria is regarded most unfair to the Cameroons, where educational facilities are almost non-existent; AND,

"That the minimum qualification entitling candidates for Oversea Scholarships for Cameroonians be not strictly the same as for Nigerians, in view of the marked disparity in educational facilities between both."

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

A motion relevant to the question of Economic Development tabled at the Conference on May 15th, by Chief A. E. Anjeh, President of the Isangele Farming Association, seconded by F. T. Tambe Esq. delegate of the Ejegham Improvement Union, Mamfe, read:-

"Whereas, Britain as Administering Authority has so far done practically nothing to foster and enhance economic advancement of the Cameroons for well over thirty years,

Be it Resolved,

"That the British Government is asked to introduce progressive development schemes embracing Agriculture, Engineering, Industrialisation etc., in the Cameroons for the native population;

"That Government be ready and willing to grant loans to enterprising natives who desire to embark upon some progressive enterprise, but who may lack the initial capital; AND,

"That Free Trade, that is, freedom to trade directly with all member Nations of the U.N.O., be guaranteed the Cameroons people, and that member Nations of the U.N.O. be requested to take advantage of the provisions of the Trusteeship Agreement, and establish trading posts in the Cameroons".

HEALTH

Relevant to the vexing question of health, a motion tabled by Z. N. Efambe Esq., delegate of the Ngolo-Batanga Improvement Union, seconded by E. F. Ebai Esq., Secretary of the Balong Tribal Union, and unanimously carried by the Conference-in-Session, read:-

"Whereas, in the opinion of this Conference of the Cameroons National Federation representing the entire masses and peoples of the Cameroons, the health situation in the Cameroons constitute one of our most acute and gravest PROBLEMS, with particular reference to the prevalence of diseases particularly leprosy, high death rate and infant mortality,

Be it Resolved,

"That the Administering Authority through its local Agents, the Nigerian Government be requested to establish a well equipped dispensary for every dozen villages, a fully equipped hospital for every district, and that a large number of Sanitary Inspectors be trained and posted in every district, to be at regular vigilance over the sanitation of the people;

"That touring Medical Officers be posted into the rural areas of the Cameroons, to give medical attention to the suffering tribesmen who are completely cut off from any medical facilities now existing around the Administrative centres; AND,

/"That, the

"That, the Administering Authority institute a scheme to combat the alarming high death rate, sickness, and gradual extermination that are now facing the Cameroons peoples, with particular reference to the leprosy disease now ravaging the territory, especially Mamfe.

ADMINISTRATION

A motion tabled by N. N. Mbile Esq., General Secretary, C.D.C. Workers' Union, seconded by P.A. Kaaso Esq., Vice Chairman of the Bakweri Land Claim Committee, and unanimously carried by the Conference-in-Session, read:-

"Whereas, after over thirty-five years of bitter experience, the system of administering the Cameroons as part of the Eastern Provinces of Nigeria, is now regarded as most unsatisfactory, and detrimental to the Cameroons, since it shuts the Cameroons out of notice, deprives her of direct representation to the Legislative Council, creates loss of her identity as a Trust Territory, derogates her into an inferior position by her being administered as an appendage to the Region in Nigeria, and lastly tends to cut her finally from the rest of her brothers under the French, Adamawa and Bornu,

Be it Resolved,

"That the British Cameroons be constituted into a Separate Region under a High Commissioner, who shall be responsible straight to the Trusteeship Council of the United Nations, through the Governor of Nigeria;

"That the Cameroons be provided with a Regional House exercising not only legislative, but Executive powers;

"That the selection of members for the Regional House as well as for the Legislative Council, be by through direct and popular election by the masses, AND,

"That the Native Authority system as the organ for local Government is regarded unsatisfactory, and should be overhauled or discontinued, that the Appointment and Deposition of Chiefs or natural rulers should be the inalienable right of the people, as Government appointed chiefs are stooges, who are not responsible to the people, since they derive their power and authority from Government.

COMMUNICATION

At the Conference of the Cameroons National Federation on May 15th, E. M. Esomba Esq., Secretary of the Bakundu Improvement Union, tabled the following motion which on being seconded by H. N. Mulango, received the unanimous support of the Conference.

It read:-

"Whereas, the indispensability of efficient communication as a prerequisite to-wards development is generally accepted as a self evident truth, AND,

/"Whereas, there

"Whereas, there is almost complete absence of any such efficient and effective means of communication in the British Cameroons,

Be it Resolved:-

"That Government is requested to undertake immediately, the construction of roads all over the territory, to open up all tribes at present shut in the midst of huge forests;

"That all streams and rivers be provided with permanent bridges, and the use of unsafe pontoon bridges be abolished;

"That Post Offices be erected at all the important towns in the territory, and telephone lines be installed at all vantage points;

"That in the construction of roads and other means of enhancing communication, preference be given to hitherto undeveloped areas.

LAND

A motion on the land question was tabled by Achang De Bong Esq., Secretary of the All Bakossi Improvement League, seconded by G. I. Mbongo, representative of the Bafaw Improvement Union, and unanimously passed by the Federation-in-Session, read:-

"Whereas, much native land in the Cameroons has been alienated against the wishes of the people by different foreign and alien agencies;

"Whereas, it is certainly not the wish nor the consent of the indigenous owners of these lands that those lands be so alienated, as can be seen by the general agitation against land seizures in the Cameroons, conspicuous among which is the Bakweri Land Claim case for which a delegate was commissioned to the Trusteeship Council of the U.N.O., but only failed reaching Lake Success as a result of lack of funds; AND,

"Whereas, the Reservation of land by Government for the people is regarded by most Africans as a subtle scheme to gradually alienate these lands,

Be it Resolved,

"That all lands seized from the people by the Germans and any other foreign combines, be returned to the indigenous native owners of these lands;

"That all accrued interests on native lands held by foreign combines in the Cameroons, be for the general benefit of the people of the Cameroons;

"That a regular percentage of the profits of the Cameroons Development Corporation be devoted to the granting of yearly scholarships to Cameroonians to study abroad, with a view to these men eventually coming back to run the Cameroons Development Corporation for the people of the Cameroons.

/"That all lands

"That all lands now being exploited by the United Africa Company etc. for its exclusive profits, be bought by the Administering Authority and developed by the Cameroons Development Corporation for the general benefit of the people of the Cameroons; AND,

"That all Land Reserves be abolished, unless it is the expressed wish of the people that they be created or retained.

UNIFICATION OF BRITISH AND FRENCH CAMEROONS

A motion tabled by R. B. Nana Esq., Secretary of the Baminyang Improvement Union (French Cameroonians, Resident in British Territory), seconded by B. N. Lobe, Esq., representative of the Bafaw Improvement Union, and unanimously carried by the Federation-in-Session, read:-

"Whereas, it is an accepted fact by every Cameroonian that the partition of the Cameroons between Britain and France is so far the greatest injustice ever suffered by the Cameroons as a race from the hands of foreign rulers, since it has not only split the Cameroons into two units each being taught a different language and imbibing a different culture, but has even more split tribes, split families, AND,

"Whereas, this partition with its accompanying boundary restrictions has not only split the Cameroons, but has deprived nationals of the Cameroons of the freedom of movement within the territorial limits of their own country - in contradiction to Article 76(e) of the U.N.O. Charter.

Be it Resolved,

"That the United Nations through the Trusteeship Council is appealed to by the peoples of the Cameroons, to bring pressure to bear upon the Administering Authorities - Britain and France, with a view to urging them to accede to the Cameroons peoples, the following demands:-

- (i) Unification of the Cameroons, in principle, with the details to be worked out later on.
- (ii) Removal of all types of frontier restrictions and regulations which in any way may tend to deprive nationals of the Cameroons of the maximum freedom of movement, and complete abolition of the Passport or any other passes, for nationals of the Cameroons within the territorial limits of the Cameroons, no matter the ruling power.
- (iii) The immediate enforcement of the teaching of the French and English languages in all schools of the Cameroons, British or French.
- (iv) The granting of all Cameroonian rights under the French the rights guaranteed the British Cameroonians in Article XIV of the

/Trusteeship

Trusteeship Agreement, "to the inhabitants of the territory, freedom of SPEECH, of the PRESS, of ASSEMBLY, and of PETITION"; AND,

- (v) The granting of nations of the Cameroons full rights and full rights and full support to organise and create common organisations towards the Political, Economic, Social, Education and other growths of the Cameroons, whether British or French.

CODIFICATION OF NATIVE LAWS

Tabled by P. A. Esaso Esq, Vice Chairman of the Bakweri Land Claim Committee, seconded by D. M. Mukete Esq., President of the Bakundu Improvement Union, and unanimously supported by the Federation-in-Session, read:-

"Whereas, it has been realised that there is an impending danger of disruption of the machinery of local Government as a result of the growing mis-interpretation, mis-representation and falsification of Native Laws and customs upon which local Government is based; AND,

"Whereas, it is necessary that there should be agreement as to the existing Native Laws and customs, on which there could be a check upon Administering Authorities, in the event of a dispute with the native peoples over a charge of violation of Articles of the Trusteeship Agreement based upon respect for Native laws and customs.

Be it resolved,

"That the Administering Authority enforce the codification of Native Laws and Customs in the Cameroons, through a Committee composed of elected representatives of all ethnic groups to draft the laws, and this scheme should be financed by the Administering Authorities.

LABOUR SITUATION

Moved by M.S. Naweya Esq. General Secretary of the Ngolo-Batanga Improvement Union, seconded by S. Obia of the Bakundu Improvement Union, and unanimously passed by the Federation-in-Session, a motion on the labour situation read,

"Whereas the Cameroons worked particularly the plantation labourer is labouring under deplorable conditions and hardships; AND,

"Whereas, it is the experience that improvement in the worker's living standard generally affects that of the rural tribesmen who are the workers' dependents and relatives,

/Be it Resolved

Be it Resolved

"That the standard of living of the working class as a whole and the plantation labourer in particular be considerably improved by the payments of reasonable wages and salaries of not less than 4/- daily for workers under the former, and not less than £8 a month for workers under the latter category, all with reasonable and regular yearly increments.

"That in order to ward off the grabbing traders who prey on the earning of the plantation worker by sky-rocketing the price of their wages whenever there is an increase in the wages of the workers, a system of food rationing and the introduction of controlled stores to sell at cost to the typical plantation worker, are advocated.

"That a permanent Committee composed of the workers' chosen representatives and those of the employers with the active co-operation of the Government be set up, to review from time to time, the cost of living, and to recommend increase in wages accordingly.

AND,

"That this Committee also shall look after the general living standard of the workers and recommend changes from time to time, with regard to Housing, Welfare and Social Services, Medical attention, Food, Water, Recreation etc. etc.

CAMEROONS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION WORKERS' UNION

No. CDCWU/MAN.1/7.
General Secretariat,
C.D.C. Workers' Union,
B U E A.
June 8th. 1949.

The Chairman C.D.C.
Cameroons Development Corporation,
B O T A.

and

The General Manager,
Elders & Fyifes,
LIKEMBA.

Sir,

INCREASE IN WAGES AND SALARIES

We have been directed by the C.D.C. Workers' Union to bring to your notice the vexing question of the soaring cost of living at the moment especially in the plantation areas in relation to the present rate of wages in force, and consequently to place you a demand for an increase of wages to a level at least above starvation point.

For illustration, may we mention the cost of a few of the indispensable items of food that form the basic diet for the average Cameroons household.

A day's meal on cocoyams, plantains or garri.

Cocoyams for launch and dinner	at 12d)	
1-1/2 hands of plantains for launch and dinner	at 12d)	1/-
6 cups of garri for launch and dinner	at 12d)	

Soup to go along with the above.

1/3 bottle of palm oil	at 4d)	
Pepper and salt	at 3d)	16d
1/2 lb. meat	at 9d)	or
3 bonga fish	at 6d)	13d

This shows a total of 2/- to 2/4d on a daily meal calculated on the bare essentials for the cheapest meal for a single man. Very necessary items like tomatoes and onions are omitted, not because they are considered luxuries, but because a man on a scanty wage as our men now have, is often tempted to nit them to the consequent detriment of his health. This brings up the point clear that if the average labourer without a wife or family were to spend all his earnings on just keeping himself from the verge of starvation, he couldn't even find it adequate under present circumstances to provide him with a regular daily meal to keep him wholesome.

/It would be

It would be superfluous to attempt to illustrate the food budget of a married labourer with a child or children, without even venturing to include necessities of life like clothing, medical care, recreation, domestic necessities (soap for washing, kerosene for lights, etc, etc, school fees, rents, etc, etc,

The case of a monthly paid employee is equally grave, in that he ventures to aim at a living above the ordinary labourer. For his food he would look on articles like rice, beans, palmwine, tomatoes, onions, and is almost invariably a man with a family. On a modest estimate, his food budget would work above 4/6. And when it is imagined that he is more enlightened and would not find it possible to live the hand to mouth existence of the labourer, it is not difficult to see how very inadequate the present wage for labour, and the minimum salary for the monthly paid are, at present.

The Cameroons Development Corporation as we see it, has a two-fold duty towards this territory to perform - as an employer, and as a guardian of the welfare of the people of the Cameroons. Since the majority of the men now under its employment are natives of the Cameroons, we cannot envisage a more fitting fulfilment of the second duty of the C.D.C., than by the improvement of the present low standard of living of the Cameroons workers through increase without undue coercion of their present basic wage and monthly salary. The C.D.C. Workers' Union, which believes in the foresight and magnanimity of the Corporation, invites the Management to use its unique position among the other employers of plantation labour in this territory by setting for them the standard to emulate, "for the common benefit of the people of the Cameroons".

From the foregoing analysis of the living cost of the typical plantation worker, we submit the following modest demand on behalf of the C.D.C. Workers' Union.

Daily Paid Labour. Minimum Wage 2/6 to 3/6, daily.

Monthly Paid. Minimum Salary £7.10s (i.e. 5/- daily)

Although these suggestions are far from answering the average necessities of life, they have been carefully considered in the light of prevailing circumstances as the most modest minima for maintaining a reasonable standard of living.

In assessing the plausibility of our suggestions, we would request the Management to visualise what proportion or ratio the highest of them i.e. the monthly paid, bears to the lowest initial salary of the European Field Assistant.

£7. 10s. : £50., works out to 3:20. One is 3/20th of the other.

/When it is

When it is considered that the African worker constitutes the "life wire" of the Corporation in that it is he who does the difficult and dirty pieces, a compensation equal to 3/20th of the supervisors' cannot be grudged him.

We present these demands in good faith, and on our established confidence in the good will of the Management, and hope that they will be given all the consideration they deserve for the mutual benefit of employer and employed.

We beg to remain,

Faithfully Yours,

(signed) N. N. Mbile.
(General Secretary)

(Signed) E. M. L. Endeley.
(General President)

C.C. The Commissioner, Cameroons Region, for information.
The Labour Officer, Cameroons Region, for information.

CAMEROONS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION WORKERS' UNION

Ref: No. GDCWU/MAN.1/23

General Secretariat,
C.D.C. Workers' Union,
1, Stranger Settlement,
Buea.

23rd August, 1949.

The Chairman,
Cameroons Development Corporation,
Office of Chairman,
Bota - Victoria.

Sir,

INCREASE IN WAGES AND SALARIES, (SUPPLEMENT):

FOOD SUBSIDY AND CONTROL STORES

Further to the submissions presented in our letter No. CDCWC/MAN.1/7 of the 8th June, 1949, on increase in wages and salaries for Corporation employees, we have been directed to submit for your further consideration the following supplementary suggestions for the benefit of our members.

2. Since the first letter ~~was~~ written our Union has given much time to the study of the question of stabilization of wages and the maintenance of an appreciably good standard of living among the Plantation workers. By "Plantation workers" here we mean the typical labourer in the Estates whose life is centred in the remote camp away from the normal flow of life and trade. With the limited evidence at our disposal we have endeavoured to compare and contrast the present workers' life with that of his brother 10 years ago, under German Management, and have arrived at certain conclusions which we intend to present in this supplement.

3. We are convinced that an increase in wages based solely on rise in cost of living cannot remain stable as it would be subject to the influence from year to year of the country's trade economy and the prices of local foodstuffs. Any general wage scheme therefore, which does not take into consideration the control and distribution of consumer goods and foodstuffs to workers, becomes shaky and unacceptable.

4. It is therefore our confirmed belief that a proper consideration of our submissions on increase in wages and salaries could only be undertaken to the substantial benefit of our members if the subject of the supply of foodstuffs and the control and distribution of consumer goods were studied simultaneously by the Management.

5. At the present moment the majority of Corporation employees, particularly the average labourer, is at the mercy of the petty trader, for his supply of food as well as his imported goods, e.g. Soap, Cloth, Kerosene etc.; these traders are relentless in rocketting prices of their

/wares as soon

wares as soon as there is a general increase in the wages of workers. The consequence is that the labourer enjoys a very short relief with his increased pay, due to this vicious circle created by the petty trader.

6. The inadequacy of the present wages and salaries in the Corporation in particular, is due on a large extent to the unrestricted control of the above factors by the Management in the interest of their employees. Our first memorandum merely attempted to portray the picture of the worker at his present wage rate without prejudice. That there is a REAL need for a rise in wages cannot be gainsaid. We cannot therefore be quoted as leading our men to "agitate for money". We feel that the labourer is entitled to a higher standard of living through a reasonable wage, and he must also be protected from a mere hand to mouth existence, by warding off those agencies which constantly prey upon his sweated earnings and leave him a beggar, thus rendering his sacrifices in the Plantations of no value to himself or his immediate dependants.

7. We are convinced that the most effective solution to the question of stabilising wages in the Cameroons Development Corporation is the introduction of those schemes which worked with such apparent success under German Management, e.g. Systematic Food Rationing, and Controlled Consumer Goods Stores in the Estates.

Food Subsidy:

8. We strongly advocate a system of food rationing for our men because, we know the difficulties which confront the average worker in the plantation over the question of obtaining his food. It will be observed that most of the local markets are held in the mornings when employees are at work on their jobs; by the time they are free to get to the markets and make their own purchases of essential foodstuffs, the markets are over and the labourers are compelled by sheer necessity to buy at higher prices from the retailer who made his purchases earlier in the day. Secondly, most foodstuffs are conveyed to the camps from the villages and towns at some expense and labour by the sellers. Consequently, they are sold to the worker at prices far above the current rates at the places of origin.

9. All these factors combine to make prices of foodstuffs in the camps much too high and therefore render living in these areas more difficult than in the towns and villages. But they are factors which could well be surmounted by the Management, now as before, for the welfare of thousands of their employees, if they wish. The advantages of a system of food rationing should be so obvious that they should need no undue stress from us. We would like to see this introduced as soon as possible.

/C.D.C. Control

C.D.C. Control Stores:

10. The menace of the petty trader should be well known to the Management as it is the root cause of all agitations for wage increases. That is all the reason why we expect the Corporation as the stalwart guardian of the welfare of its workers to wage a conclusive war against this menace and help to eradicate it for once in the estates. We know for certain that these suckers were unknown in the German plantations when the system of control stores existed.
11. Co-operative Consumer Stores will not ease the situation to any appreciable extent, at least not now. The stores must be sponsored and controlled by the Corporation who are privileged by a section of the C.D.C. Ordinance to trade. It will certainly cost the Management some money, but what is the use of declaring yearly profits for the general development of the peoples of the Cameroons if that section of these same people of the Cameroons who work out these profits are denied the very essential benefits of life. Experience has shown us that any prosperity bestowed on the section of the Cameroons population engaged in the plantations, would be consequently reflected on the standard of life of their kindred in the neighbouring villages. We therefore look upon this measure as the first practical step in aiding the development of the people through the Corporation.
12. The alternative to these well meaning suggestions is to be ready to countenance frequent agitations for increase in wages with their attendant confusions and ill-will.
13. The workers, as we know them, can only understand the type of economics that is propounded to them in a practical form, as starving men. If the Management therefore feels that it does not help the workers to have their wages frequently increased because, the money inevitably goes into the petty traders' pockets, then let it do something to see that the little they are given does not leave their pockets. It is in this believe that the Corporation is in a position to pay wages and also to make these of practical value to the workers that we make these submissions.
14. The arguments usually brought up against the introduction of these schemes is that they will be abused by workers. Where in the world have there been privileges and no abuse of them? Abuse of privilege is the heritage of man from the days of adam! The Management should therefore not be discouraged from introducing generally beneficial schemes for fear of their abuses, as long as such abuses do not ferment discontent or lower the efficiency of the workers. For what difference would it
/make to a

make to a labourer's capacity to load Bananas, for instance, if he choses at certain times to exchange his ration of, say, Stockfish for antelope meat? The essential point is that he has got what he desires, and he will be satisfied. But it will be quite a different affair to his working capacity if he went on an empty stomach because he was unable to secure any type of meat at all. The issues under consideration involve broad principles covering thousands of workers under the Cameroons Development Corporation, and under such circumstances individual human failures are insignificant.

15. We therefore commend these two memoranda to the most careful and serious study they deserve, and look forward to an early implementation of the submissions presented therein, for the common good of the employer and the employed.

We beg to remain,
Faithfully yours,

(Signed)

E. M. L. ENDELEY N. H. MBILE
General President. General Secretary.

COPY

PETITION

FROM

THE NGOLO-PATANGA-BINA-BALONDODADIKO LAND COMMITTEE,

TO

THE TRUSTEESHIP COUNCIL OF THE UNITED NATIONS, Through
THE VISITING MISSION TO THE CAMEROONS, NOVEMBER, 1949.

- - - - c00 - - - - -

We the members of the Ngolo-Patanga-Bina-Balondodadiko Land Committee which is appointed by the Tribal Union of these areas in the northwestern portion of Kumba Division, do humbly present the following petition for submission to the Trusteeship Council of the United Nations through the Visiting Mission to the Cameroons in November 1949.

Our Tribal Union being a member of the Cameroons National Federation, this submission is presented as an appendix to the Federation's memorandum presented on behalf of the entire Cameroons Territory. The representations fall under three principal headings:-

- (1) Ndian Estate Land
- (2) Forest Reserves
- (3) General Development

NDIAN ESTATE

This estate, area over 7000 acres, situated about eighty miles from Kumba in the northwestern area of Kumba Division, is owned by the U.A.C. (United Africa Colony), an English firm which bought the land from the "Custodian of Enemy property", in 1924. Its price was over £1 per acre according to the Resident Cameroons Province, in a letter No. 1142/243 of August 4th, 1948, to the North Western Area Council, Ndian, by the District Officer, Kumba.

Native Reservation, 300 Acres.

Within this Area of over 7000 Acres was an Area of 300 Acres on which the Ndian Village was situated, and on which the villagers farmed. This had been demarkated as a Native Reserve. This Area was not included in the area sold to the United Africa Company.

While the U.A.C. was developing the Area purchased, the villagers lived and farmed in the 300 Acres left them. But shortly, the U.A.C. found that they did not enjoy untrammelled control as the village Reserve lay between the palm Estate and the Ndian River by which the Company shipped its produce and brought in supplies.

/Thus came

Thus came a period of pressure on the people to evacuate the 300 Acres of their settlement and migrate to another spot on the other side of the Ndian (Sula) River. Series of intimidations were exerted on the people by the Administrative Officers when the people were discovered to be adamant in their refusal to evacuate the Reserve and leave the graves of their fathers and the home of their pride.

Some enlightened Africans who strengthened their comrades not to yield to the pressure were labelled "strangers and undesirable characters" and ejected from the village by the Government. These so called "undesirable characters" were Sierraleonians and Monrovia Traders who knew that the people reserved the right to refuse giving their land to the "whiteman", and who taught the more primitive indigenies about their agrarian rights. When the "irresponsibles" were finally ejected and only the helpless primitive men who were either ignorant of their rights or who were too weak to defend them, remained, the Government and the U. A. C. now issued their coup de grace and forced it down the throats of the Ndian villagers to evacuate the site of their fathers. During the so called negotiation between the Natives on the one hand and the British Government and the English firm on the other, different methods of Co-ersion were resorted to, to beat down the native resistance. One was the offer of "plenty" of money to the poor natives. This pressure continued for several years - from about 1927-1935, and finally the natives were overwhelmed and ejected in 1935.

The evacuation was enforced and supervised by a British Administrative Officer, D.O. Charles with some eight fully armed police constables, the militia of the Administrative Authority, and he did not leave Ndian until the present Ndian site was put up.

A sum of money was promised the people as compensation for their houses, farms and crops including groves of coconut palms destroyed during the evacuation. This amount may have been announced, but was never handed to the natives. The money was retained by the Administrative Authority, and disbursed in the following ways:-

- i. The sum equal to the amount of tax expected from the Ndian people was yearly withdrawn from the amount into the General revenue for taxes.
- ii. Bits of this amount were pitted out to old men, women, chiefs and Native councillors of Ndian. The natives had always mistaken these amounts for gifts from the "rich and generous whiteman".

The Ndian people were however shocked to be told about 1945, that they were owing the Government £9: 12:2d, as excess withdrawal over the £400 (four hundred pounds). Chief Njuma of Ndian was ordered to, and he paid back this amount most reluctantly, to the District Officer, Kumba, Mr. W.F.H. Newington.

The result is that the people hardly knew that any compensation had been paid to them at all, in the way things had been conducted.

Their complaints are summarised as follows:-

- (1) That the so called Compensation of £400 was for their crops and houses destroyed was decided between the Government and the U.A.C., and NOT between the people and the U.A.C. There was never any negotiation free and voluntary on the part of the people. It was co-ersion and force.
- (2) That this amount was never handed to the people, was retained by the Government and merely trickled out to them from year to year in what appeared as gifts, while much of it was deducted for taxes.
- (3) That this sum of £400 was Compensation for houses, farms and crops including groves of coconut trees, orange trees, Kola nut trees etc. that were destroyed during the evacuation of the natives, and Not payment for the 300 Acres of land itself.
- (4) That therefore the people demand payment from the U.A.C. for the 300 Acres of land at the current price of land, or an annual rent for the land, dictated by the/owners. native
- (5) That the U.A.C. be made to pay annual rents from 1935 till date for use of the 300 Acres of the people's land, the amount of rent being dictated by the owners of the land, and Government as trustee of the people acting as a Conciliator.
- (6) That it is regarded unjust for the Custodian of Enemy property to have sold off 7000 Acres of the peoples virgin land to the United Africa Company when the Germans had merely seized the land by brute force without the consent nor the wishes of the people, and such sale of land of the people of the Cameroons being a capital violation of Article 8 of the Trusteeship Agreement, and a moral injustice against a defenceless people.
- (7) An acceptable proposition might lie in the handing over of the Ndian Estate, after purchase by the Administering Authority, to the Cameroons Development Corporation to develop for the general benefit of the people of the Cameroons, after fully settling with the claims of the people over the different items of land included in the representations above.

"NATIVE RESERVES"

The creation of Reserves in our Land is an act of Government which the population of our tribes in particular and the Cameroons as a whole views with the utmost suspicion and doubt.

The reasons for this are obvious. The method adopted in the institution of Reserves created much cause for thought. Illiterate Chiefs were used as instruments, and terrific intimidation of Chiefs and Native Councillors usually accompany the creation of Reserves. Even convictions for obstinate opposers are not unknown. Recently in the Bakossi tribe in Kumba Division, a British Magistrate convicted five members of the Native Council for having prevented one of their numbers from co-operating with the District Officer, and the Forest Officer, for which they were charged with assault.

The question is, why should Government be so rigorous in the Creation of Reserves in the Face of such opposition, and why should Government be unwilling to issue written and signed declarations as often demanded by the people that the lands shall always be for the people and for their prosterity? Why is Government not more, or even equally vigorous in the construction of Roads and the establishment of Schools, or in the erection of hospitals when these other agencies are in fact far more essential to the wellbeing and benefit of the people than the preservation of forests.

We are far from being convinced that there is not something under the Government sleeve, over this Forest Reservations. No body has ever been charged for doing wrong and deserving conviction, for making use of his reserve funds, and yet it is not unknown in the Cameroons that citizens have been often convicted for using even ignorantly the contents of Reserves.

Their Abolition

In view of our experience so far with regards the acquisition of land by ruling powers, we regard it expedient to demand immediate abolition of all Reserves and the nullification of all documents empowering their creation and their continuation, particularly since Government has never countenanced a written declaration that the lands are for the people and their prosterity, as regularly demanded by the people.

DEVELOPMENT

We bitterly complain of the complete lack of development of our country by the ruling power. In fact we can hardly understand that we are being administered by a Great power, which has the Development of our country /at heart.

at heart. We never knew that any country could progress without Roads, without Schools and Colleges, without hospitals to attend to the sick, without communication to link it to the rest of the world and enhance progress. Our tribes are entirely shut in the midst of mighty jungles, cut out of the rest of the civilised world except by foot-paths and dangerous hanging bridges over ravines and dangerous gorges.

Our humble submission on this item is that the Trusteeship Council should request the Administrators on our behalf to undertake the development of our country, as they are doing in other parts under British rule. At first, we thought that it might be that the Administering Authority might not be able by nature to undertake real development of backward areas, but when we see how much has been done and is being done in Nigeria and other places, we more than ever feel most dissatisfied with our trustees over the complete lack of development of our country. We appeal that a father should be interested in the progress and wellbeing of all his children, and we therefore insist that the Administering Authority should undertake the development of our country in the Construction of Roads, Establishment of Schools, Erection of Hospitals, etc.

The above submissions are humbly presented for submission to the Trusteeship Council of the United Nations, which body we recognise not only as the supreme Authority of this Territory, but also as the Champions of undeveloped humanity.

We beg that the Trusteeship Council should make it a point to pay us a Visit once every five years (At least), so that it would be it could possible for the Trusteeship Council to regularly check up the reports of the Administering Authority submitted for the period of every five years, at least.

We wish the Missioners the happiest stay within our Territory.

We beg to remain, Dear Sirs,
Your humble petitioners,

(Signed) Namaso Ngembeni
Secretary

Dated this 4th of
November, 1949.

C/o Native Court, Ndian, Kumba
Cameroons Under United Kingdom
Trusteeship.

(1) Chief Njuma Nakeri)
(2) Councelor Motia) (Finger prints
(3) Sako) marked here)
(4) Councilor Anamani)

I certify that the above thumprints are those of the leading family heads of Ndian, and the members of the Ngolo-Batanga-Bima-Balondobadiko Land Committee, who have submitted this petition.

(Signed) Namaso Ngembeni
Secretary.