

UNITED NATIONS
TRUSTEESHIP
COUNCIL



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GENERAL

T/PET.4/94
3 February 1953

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

PETITION FROM MR. S. T. BAIYEE
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 10 November 1952 from Mr. S. T. Baiyee concerning the Trust Territory of the Cameroons under British administration.

This communication was transmitted to the Secretary-General by the United Nations Visiting Mission to Trust Territories in West Africa.

COPY

From

S. T. BAIYEE,
c/o. Public Works Department,
B u e a, Cameroons, U.U.K.T.,
West Africa, 10th November, 1952

The Chairman,
U. N. O. Visiting Mission,
2nd Visiting Mission in the Trust Territories,
B u e a, Cameroons, U. U. K. T.

Sir,

WELCCME ADDRESS BY S.T. BAYEE.

I am highly pleased to welcome you and your party into this hidden Country of ours. From time immemorial (I mean after the Great War of 1914) there was no living soul in this Trust Territory who knew that there were other people called "The United Nations Organisation" whose duties include "Peace, Justice and Security for all" until in the year 1949, November, when it happened that the First U. N. O. Visiting Mission reached the shores of this Trust Territory known as the Cameroons under United Kingdom Trusteeship. I believe there must have been a reason for this visit and it was from this time that the literate ones with a vision started to bear in minds that time has come when the Cameroons' cries could be heard and redemption was certain in all costs.

2. How do I come to realize this? Because I took part as one of the Ex-Servicemen who paraded at the Government School Field, Victoria, for the Visiting Mission, when our (Ex-Servicemen) Memorandum was read and handed over to the Chairman in my presence and all what transpired gave every body assurance that the future was said to be bright.

3. After the departure of the U. N. O. Visiting Mission I have always been bearing in mind that "Peace, Justice and Security for all" must prevail; but during the year 1951 instead of Justice, from the Administrative Authorities, Injustice cropped into my way for no just cause and in which case I tender herewith a copy of my Petition forwarded to the Secretariat of the U. N. O. New York, through the Commissioner of the Cameroons, Buea, which up to this time of interview a reply has not been received (Your T/PET.4/87 of 13-8-52, refers).

4. Furthermore, I tender also a copy of my MFONJOH FAMILY'S Petition to the Minister of Land and Surveys, through the Resident, Cameroons Province, Buea, to which no reply has been received.

5. Finally, I tender herewith copies of my petitions in respect of Non-repatriation by the Senior District Officer, Victoria, and on which my employer as Public Works Department, Victoria, has refused to hearken into my cries for leave since 1949 despite my undaunted services without absence, illness or leave, query or warning.

6. Reference my paragraphs 3-5 above, may it please your Honour, the Chairman to clarify the positions and in due course let me be satisfied that your Emblem of "Peace, Justice and Security for all" are the true sayings, so that I might not be dismayed, Sir.

7. Remember that as you have given up yourselves for this Mission which entails weariness, etc. it does not conclusively depend upon the meeting of the Administrative Authorities and to listen to their words alone but also to witness things by yourselves, taking notes of them and to receive reports from those who are grieved; and with these views, the God who had chosen you to create this Mission will guide you through your toils.

Yours obediently,

(Signed) S. T. BAIYEE

S. T. BAIYEE

Received through the Visiting Mission to West Africa, 1952, at United Nations Headquarters on 20 January 1953.

COPY

(Reference paragraph 4)

Cur Ref: No. MF/LD/2/51/20

The Mfonjoh Family (TALI),
C/o P.O. Box 9,
VICTORIA, Br. Cameroons,
25 June, 1952.

The Minister of Land, Surveys and Local Development,
Eastern Regional Headquarters, ENUGU.

Thro' The Senior Resident, Cameroons Province, BUEA.

Thro' The District Officer, M A M F E.

Sir,

LAND ACQUISITION AND RECOVERY OF RENT:
TALI, MAMFE DIVISION.

I am directed by the above Family to forward to you this petition craving for your consideration and all necessary assistance and approval as under:-

(a) That the piece of land situated at mile 34 (on the Bank of River MFI) from Mamfe to Tali (East) said to be occupied by the Germans since the year 1899 was taken over by the British Government after the Great War of 1914, (vide page 919 of Supplement to the Laws of Nigeria, 1929, British Cameroons Administration Proclamation No. 38 of 10th October, 1922, Property No. 81).

(b) That this piece of Land being the property of the MFONJOH FAMILY was given on leave to the United Africa Company without the consent of the said FAMILY (vide D.O's memo. No. 79/305 of 14/11/51, copy Attached. attached). ^{1/}

(c) That this piece of land on enquiries was said to be the property of Attached the Governor who was then to dispose of it (D.O's memo. No. 79/305 as above of 14/11/51, paragraph 2).

1/ Note by the Secretariat: The above-mentioned enclosures have been placed in the files of the Secretariat and are available to members of the Trusteeship Council on request.

- (d) That this piece of Land in question according to D.O's letter No. 79/309 of 9-1-52 (copy attached)^{1/} is acclaimed to have no Agreement made and no lease has been received by us (MFONJOH FAMILY) since the time it was occupied by the United Africa Company.
- (e) That the Rent has been collected by the Government of Nigeria from United Africa Company and merged into Nchemti Native Treasury for the use of Nchemti Native Authority as a whole.

2. I have the honour to mention that the MFONJOH FAMILY is desirous to have a full account of the money collected by the Nigeria Government from United Africa Company as Rent paid to her from the Nchemti Native Treasury as soon as practicable in view of the fact that this piece of land - standing at mile 34 on the River MFI belongs to the Mfonjoh Family at TALI and not as it is thought to be used by the Nchemti Native Authority area as a whole, and thereby seeks for your authority for the recovery of the Rent and Land, please.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant
for MFONJOH FAMILY (TALI)
(SGD). S. T. BAIYEE.

HON. SECRETARY.

Certified true copy:

(Signed) Illegible

Hon. SECRETARY.

^{1/} Note by Secretariat: The above-mentioned enclosures have been placed in the files of the Secretariat and are available to members of the Trusteeship Council on request.

COPY

(Reference paragraph 5)

From

S. T. BAIYEE,
Executive Engr's (Roads) Office
Public Works Department
BUEA, 28th October, 1952

The Provincial Engineer,
P. W. Dept., VICTORIA.

Copy to:- Snr. District Officer,
Victoria, Camerouns.

Sir,

LEAVE ACCREDITED TO REPATRIATION OF EX-SERVICEMEN

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With further reference to my letter dated 2/8/52, to the Labour Officer, Buea, copied to you and S.D.O., Victoria, I earnestly beg to invite your attention to the fact that in many occasions I have applied for leave in your employ but told recruited locally i.e. the leave can be granted but must not be farther than Victoria.

2. As I am not a native of Victoria but from Mamfe, I thought it wise to consult the Labour Department and in reply Memo. No. BU. ME/1 of 27th October, 1952, that arrangements regarding my leave is purely departmental hence I am appealing to you to reconsider my case fervently and treat it with sympathy in the same line with other Ex-Servicemen who could always go on leave to their homelands in Nigeria although on DAILY-RATES-OF PAY.

3. With a careful study of my letter of that date (2/8/52) you can easily observe that the delay actually was the concern of the Senior District, Officer, Victoria, by then, who failed to provide me with transport or warrant for my repatriation.

4. Hoping you would kindly treat my case leniently and not to take into consideration "Recruited Locally" as it has always been the case.

5. I believe I do not deviate from the point of my rights as this an unfortunate case out of a 100%.

6. Thanking you for an early reply.

I have the honour to be, Sir,
Your Obedient Servant,
(SGD.) S. T. BAIYEE

Certified true copy
(SGD.) S. T. BAIYEE
10-11-52 Buea.
