

**TRUSTEESHIP
COUNCIL**

**CONSEIL
DE TUTELLE**

UNRESTRICTED

T/PET.4/3/Add.3
20 January 1949

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

CAMEROONS UNDER BRITISH ADMINISTRATION

ADDENDUM TO

PETITION FROM THE BAKWERI LAND COMMITTEE

DATED 24 AUGUST 1946 AND 17 NOVEMBER 1947

The Secretary-General has received two communications dated 1 September 1948 and 31 December 1948 from the Bakweri Land Committee concerning the Trust Territory of the Cameroons under British administration. These communications, which contain information additional to that in the previously submitted petition and its addenda set forth in documents T/PET.4/3, 4/3/Add.1 and 4/3/Add.2 by the same petitioners, are transmitted herewith to the Members of the Trusteeship Council in accordance with Rule 85 of the rules of procedure for the Trusteeship Council.

TRUE COPY

D.M.L. Endeley
Secretary,
Bakweri Land Committee,
c/o The Native Adm. Office,
M u y a k a,
Cameroons under British Administration.
September 1, 1948.

Sir,

Your letter TRI 30/5/01/AA/B.IV.26.3 of 2nd. August, 1948,
which is acknowledged with thanks refers.

2. I am to inform you that the fact that the United Kingdom Government according to paragraph 23 of document T/182, has sent a Senior Administrative Officer to Victoria Division to make investigations in order to ensure adequate land for subsistence farming, has no bearing what ever with the demands of our petition, because we are, on moral grounds, asking for the returning to us - to our absolute control - the plantation lands taken by the Germans.
3. We shall be pleased to send our delegation during the Trusteeship Council's next session, or send supplementary submissions which of course will alter nothing as put forward by our petitions. You will kindly inform us by telegram 8 weeks before time, when the next session will take place.
4. It is noted with interest that a visiting mission of the Trusteeship Council is scheduled to visit the British Cameroons sometime next year.

Very truly yours,
(Signed) D.M.L. ENDELEY
Secretary
Bakweri Land Committee

Monsieur Trygve Lie,
Secretary-General,
Department of Trusteeship and Information
from Non-Self-Governing Territories,
United Nations,
Lake Success,
New York.

Received at United Nations: 7 September 1948.

/Native Administration

COPY

Native Administration Office,
Buea - Cameroons Under British Mandate.
December 31st, 1948

Sir,

I am instructed to inform you that owing to circumstances beyond its control, the Bakweri Land Committee has decided not to send a delegate.

I therefore forward to the Trusteeship Council its supplementary submissions.

Very truly yours,
s/ D.M.L Endeley
D.M.L. Endeley,
Secretary,
Bakweri Land Committee

Monsieur Trygve Lie,
Secretary-General,
Department of Trusteeship and Information from
Non-Self-Governing Territories,
United Nations,
Lake Success,
New York. U.S.A.

DMLE/JNM:-

Received at United Nations: 12 January 1949.

/Native Administration

COPY

Native Administration Office
Buea - Cameroons Under British Mandate
December 31, 1948.

The Trusteeship Council,
United Nations Organisation,
Lake Success, New York,
U. S. A.

SUPPLEMENTARY MEMORANDUM TO PETITION SUBMITTED
TO TRUSTEESHIP COUNCIL OF U.N.O. BY THE
BAKWERI LAND COMMITTEE

President & Gentlemen,

The Bakweri Land Committee humbly submit the following facts and observations supplementary to their petition dated 24th August, 1946.

2. That the Bakweri Land Committee was founded early in 1946 in order to have concerted action directed towards the recovery of their long lost lands.

3. That the Bakweri Land Committee is made up of 80 members representing all the villages in the Victoria Division and also the sub-tribes of Balong, Bimbia and Bota.

4. That after the petition had been forwarded through the Nigerian Government on the 24th of August, a night letter telegram was sent to the Secretary of State for the Colonies to the effect that he suspend discussions on the future of the Cameroons Plantations which were then going on in Parliament, as the Bakweri Land Committee was laying a claim on the Plantations and other alienated lands.

5. That it appeared that the telegram had been ignored, for in November it came to the Committees' understanding that the Secretary of State had decided that these plantations be bought by Nigerian Government for leasing to a Corporate body.

6. That a protest telegram was immediately sent on the 7th of November to the Secretary of State referring him to the petition which had been sent since September and reminding him the purport of article eight of the Cameroons - Togoland Trusteeship Agreement.

7. That in December 1946, two Ordinances were passed by the Legislative Council, one empowering the Governor to acquire the Plantations for the interest of the Natives, and the other enacting the establishment
/of a Cameroons

of a Cameroons Development Corporation. These Ordinances appear in Nigeria Gazette No. 67 of 16th December, 1946.

8. That after these, the Administering Authority's Senior Administrative Officer in the Territory collected the Bakweri, Balong and Victoria Chiefs and told them "nicely" that the land had been bought back for them and that there was a Cameroons Development Corporation to be established to cater for their interests. Only a fool could have refused such an enterprise with such luring nomenclature without seeing it in practice. Afterwards the truth dawned on the people that the practice of the board belied its policy and therefore the Committee declared the Corporation as not being to the best of the peoples' interest. When nominating the Board of Directors or management the Bakweri people expected even to have been asked to elect their own representatives on the Board, but the Governor nominated one man, without the knowledge or consent of the people who owned the land, and the people who the nominee was going to represent.

9. That the Committee is aware that the Trusteeship Council knows that there can be very great difference between nice work on paper and actual practice. For example, in the Annual Report on the Cameroons for U.N.O. page 104, you will find that Native Administration Probationary Teachers are paid twenty-eight pounds per annum, but the truth is that they are paid twenty one pounds per annum - 25% wrong! (The Bakweri Land Committee's Secretary happens to be a Headmaster in charge of a Native Administration School). They show also in page 181 of same report that £5200 were spent on electricity in the Cameroons in 1946/7 (i.e. April 1946 - March 1947). We have reason enough to show considerable doubt in this too, because we know of no electric undertaking or installations established in the Cameroons in 1946 which could have cost all this money plus £3,400 in 1947.

10. That when asking for these Plantations we had plans on how they would be run for the direct benefit of the natives, and we expected that in the case of the Nigerian Government buying these Plantations for the natives, the Land Committee would be called upon to produce a plan for the conduct and administration of the Plantations as would best suit them (the people of Bakweri land).

11. That an outline of the plan is attached as Appendix 'A', the policy envisaged being that in a period of say 15 years at most, people would have been produced in the Cameroons, educated from the money or profits accruing from the products of their land, who would handle even the most technical and delicate affairs concerning the Plantations.

/12. That the

12. That the United Kingdom's contention that we have not the people to take up responsible places cannot be said to be very tennable, for of all things it goes to prove abundantly that during their thirty-two years of actual stay here, the people have been living under very poor social and economic conditions - not a single person who has graduated from an English University! Why? Poverty!

The Committee further wonders whether there are any sincere people who would consider as worth hearing, a statement as embodied in paragraph 2 of the United Kingdom's observations, (Document T/182) if they know that land may be left as a hunting reserve especially with a forest people like the Bakweris. Sure enough, there is no ownerless land in our country.

Does the latter part of paragraph 3 of the same record not prove that there was much unfairness in the way land was acquired from natives? Section A of our petition dated 24th August, shows Bakweri Land tenure according to native law and custom, and B shows the method by which land was wrested from natives by the German Government.

13. That the Bakweri Land Committee will have no reason to complain if the land which has been bought for the native inhabitants by the administering authority is given over to them more genuinely and completely. That is, by causing and allowing the operation of the Plantations according to the plan as set down in Appendix A which provides for a gradual process of replacement of foreign personnel, and also changing the name to "Bakweri People's Plantations".

14. That they further beg to submit that the assertion that the profits of the Plantations in the Bakweri Land will be used for the general development of the Cameroons is misleading, as it is like robbing Peter to pay Paul.

The most backward area in the Cameroons economically, is the Victoria Division where all the land has virtually been taken up by Plantations and therefore the people are exceedingly poor. Prosperity in this area will have an indirect effect on the rest of the Province, in the way of providing employment indiscriminately.

15. That it might interest the Trusteeship Council to know that the atmosphere that pervades the relations between the Administering Government and the people in this land affair has been made to appear suspicious due to the fact that in the process of preparing even undesirable reports on land, the most secretive measures have been employed. The fact that any genuine thing void of any unsavoury motives needs no hiding, hardly requires mentioning. If therefore these

/investigations

investigations have been to the benefits of the Bakweri people in respect of their petition, the reports should not have been hidden from them.

A few days ago Mr. D. A. F. Shute the Administering Authority's special representative of the Trust Territory came to interview the land committee in order to find out who their delegate was. When questioned why he particularly wanted to know the name of the delegate he said it was just a matter of "interest". Anyway, he was not given a name, but he continued trying to find out the name by making enquiries from individuals and even students - this strikes the people as queer.

When he was further asked to interpret article eight of the Trusteeship System he refused. Naturally this type of thing instances suspicion, and has given the Land Committee greater doubts for the sincerity of the policy of the Cameroons Development Corporation etc.

16. That this memorandum is submitted in good faith and in the hope that that which belongs to the Bakweris shall be given to them in the name of Natural justice.

s/ D.M.L. Endeley

David M.L. Endeley,
SECRETARY,
FOR AND ON BEHALF OF BAKWERI
LAND COMMITTEE

DMLE/JNM:-

A P P E N D I X 'A'

An outline constitution prepared by the Bakweri Land Committee for the operations of the plantations on their land generally known as Cameroons Plantations.

P O L I C Y

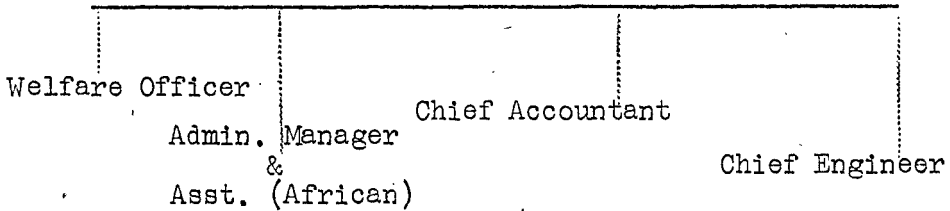
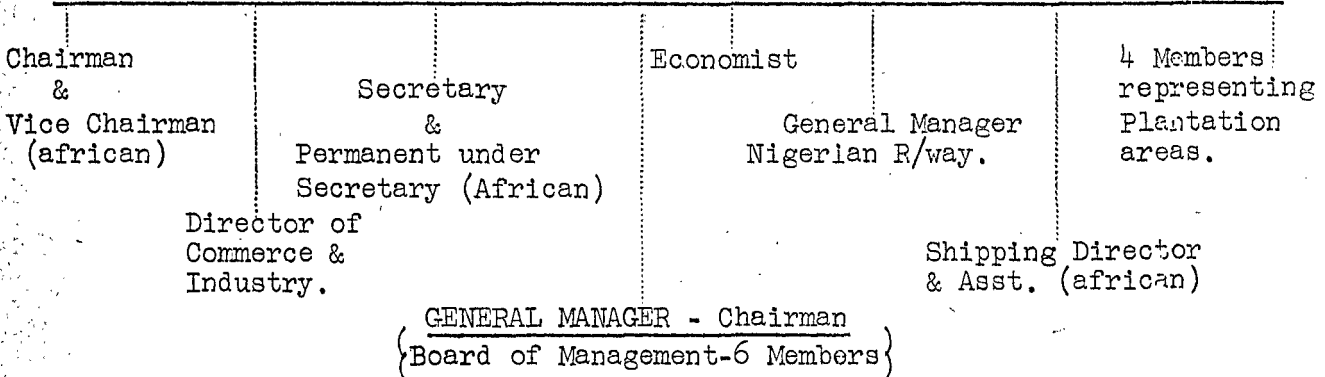
1. To improve the Country's wealth resources.
2. To educate the people by providing for scholarships and bursaries.
3. To improve the living standard of the workers and the people by building more hospitals, welfare centres, and by direct help to peasant farmers in the way of finding and arranging for a market for their products.
4. To improve the Country as a whole in any practicable way.

S C H E M A T I C P L A N O F C O N S T I T U T I O N

G O V E R N O R - (Trustee).

Bakweri Land Committee - Advises Governor on nomination of members of Board of Directors.

Board of Directors - 13 Members.



G E N E R A L L A B O U R P E R S O N N E L

NOTE: The aim is to have understudies who will gradually learn to handle the affairs of the plantations with a view to taking up responsible positions as time goes on, instead of sitting on the fence to watch the work being done.

It is surely a bad coach who says "let me ride while you watch", and the moment the trainee wants to take a turn, the coach yells out a "you are not ready yet!"

/We want

We want actual practice in the handling of our own affairs and not merely be made to look on indefinitely.

S/ D.M.L. Endeley
D.M.L. Endeley,
Secretary,
Bakweri Land Committee.
