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ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

PETITION FROM MR. R. N. AYUK 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 20 October 1952 from Mr. R. N. Ayuk 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

No. EB/1/254.

Community School,
Sumbe, Mamfe

20 October 1952

The U.N.O. Mission,
Thro' The District Officer,
Mamfe.

Sir,

I have the honour to complain that this school was established in 1947 and up till now no grant-in-aid had been approved. I wrote to the Provincial Education Officer in my letter No. EB/1/31 of 4/7/47 and grant-in-aid was refused in his CM.691/20. I again wrote in my EB/1/77 of 23/12/48 and refusal was made in his CM.691/64 of 31/12/48. On 24/1/49, I wrote in my EB/1/81 asking for an allowance for my Headmaster - a trained and certificated teacher. The Department refused in their CM.691/68 of 4/2/49.

2. I then considered to take up the matter with higher authorities. I petitioned to the Deputy Director of Education through the P.E.O. in my EB/1/85. He replied in his D.D.E. 25/639 of 31/3/49, stressing on Registration of land. Ever since the Department has taken that as an excuse for upholding approval for grant-in-aid for this School.

3. Teachers' salaries are rising from day to day and refusing to approve this school for grants means closing down the school indirectly because the teachers would not teach with small salaries as compared with their contemporaries. The Registration of land does not hold to the indigenous natives of the Trust Territory as is clearly shown on page 74 of the Cameroons Report of 1948. Thus:-

"Natives are defined as persons one or both of whose parents belong to a tribe indigenous to the Trust Territory, or any African who has obtained a certificate to that end from the Governor. Any native or native community lawfully using or occupying land in accordance with native law and custom holds a right of occupancy protected by the Ordinance. No rent is paid in respect of such right".

On page 75 of the Grant-in-aid in Nigeria recommended by Mr. S. Phillipson conditions of approval of Voluntary agencies are clearly stated thus:-

(a) A voluntary agency should acquire continuity of existence either by Registration of land Ordinance or by becoming a body corporate have perpetual succession and the powers to hold lands.

Your humble petitioner finds it hard to understand why the Department considers the Registration of land more important than anything else whereas this school is governed by a body of efficient Trustees in addition to a committee.

4. For your information, there are different kinds of grants, viz:-

(a) Grants by Native Administration to Voluntary Agency Schools.

Conditions of which are:-

1. The School must receive no grant from the Government.
2. The school must be efficient.
3. The School must receive the support of the community which it serves and fit into Local Education organisation.
4. The grant must be recommended by the Education Department.

(see Grant-in-aid page 57)

(b) Ten Year Plan of Development and Welfare.

This large scheme provides provisions for awarding grants to schools which are not yet in receipt of Government grants. This scheme does not only provide grants for Secondary and Teachers' Training institutes but also to Primary Education which is the foundation of Education.

(c) Rural Areas Development:- This scheme provides for rural areas development of which education is a part of development. Could not the Department recommend any of these grants to be made to this School?

5. It would be appreciated if some sort of grants be granted to this School considering the expenditure already incurred in running it, because the usual drawback had been the Registration of Lands which today does not hold to indigenous natives.

Year	EARNINGS	EXPENDITURE	DIFFERENCE
1947	£15:12: =	£ 90:12: =	£75: =: =
1948	25: 9: 9	82: =:33	56:10: 6
1949	46: 8:11	80: 5: =	33:16: 1
1950	63:11: 9	123:11: 9	60: =: =
1951	49:14: 8	87:19: 1	38: 4: 5
1952	46: 4: =	117: =: 4	70:16: 4
	<u>£247: 1: 1</u>	<u>£581: 8: 5</u>	<u>£334: 7: 1</u>

6. The Education Department would agree that the School is efficient and better than most of the Junior assisted schools in the Province. It is well attended, but within a month two teachers have resigned owing to the present increase in salaries of teachers in other schools. The Form for Registration of Land had been filled in and forwarded to the Department but before it comes through your humble petitioner states that the school must then had been closed down if there are no teachers. Once the Registration of Land is removed the Department will do something in awarding grants or making refunds of the difference incurred in running the school ever since its establishment. The Resident, Cameroons Province, visited and made the following remarks:-

"Visited with District Officer, Mamfe I am highly impressed at the spirit of enterprise and public interest which has prompted the Manager to open and maintain the school, apparently with but little regular help from the villagers. Such instances of public spirit are all too rare. The Headmaster and the staff seem too keen and there is an impressively good atmosphere in the school."

(Sgd) J.G.C. Allen
 Resident (ex Lagos)
 29/4/52.

7. If the indigenous natives are to be encouraged to develop this Trust Territory educationally, and if it is the desire of the British to train us for Self Government, education should be the foundation stone, and this being the only school established and run by a body of indigenous

natives it is hopeful that something will be done for this school.

I have the honour to be,

Sirs,

Your humble Petitioner

R.N. Ayuk (Signed) R.N.AYUK

Manager.

on behalf of the school

Committee

Received at United Nations Headquarters: 10 March 1953
