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FIVE PETITIONS CONCERNING THE CAMEROONS UNDER BRITISH ADMINISTRATION
AND CONTAINING COMPLAINTS RELATING TO VARIOUS REPRESSIVE MEASURES

(Circulated in accordance with paragraph 5 of the
annex to resolution 1713 (XX))

1. These five petitions sent from Bamenda in March 1958 protest against certain repressive measures which the Administering Power is alleged to have taken in the Cameroons under British administration between 2 and 26 March 1958. The following are extracts from the original of each of these petitions:

(a) "I come very humbly before your international organization to protest vigorously against the outrageous tyrannies of the British Government which has been ill-treating the Kamerunian people from 2 to 26 March 1958 notwithstanding resolutions 558 (VI) of 18 January 1952 and 1064 (XI) of 26 February 1957, and the provision of Article 76 b of the United Nations Charter.

"I protest vehemently against the arrest of Kamto Sonard, 1/ Fotso Joseph, Kamdem Justin, 2/ Fongang Mathias, 3/ Tamda John and Fouopie in the province of Bamenda by the British authorities on the grounds that they had distributed United Nations document A/C.4/SR.715 of 25 November 1957 issued by the twelfth session of the United Nations General Assembly in accordance with resolution 1713 (XX), paragraph 4.

"Considering that the statute of our movement, ONE Kamerun, is officially recognized by the Administering Authorities.

"I therefore request the Secretary-General of the United Nations to intervene with the authorities concerned for the immediate liberation of the patriots arrested from 2 to 26 March 1958 in the province of Bamenda." (petition No. 1)

1/ Note by the Secretariat: This name appears also in documents T/PET.5/1305 and 1312 and T/PET.4 and 5/23.

2/ This name is mentioned also in documents T/PET.5/1286, 1312 and 1316 and T/PET.4 and 5/23.

3/ See also document T/PET.5/1312.

(b) "By the present petition I come very respectfully before your high authority to protest vehemently against the bitter tyrannies committed by the British authorities against the inhabitants of Kamerun, and in particular against the members of "One Kamerun", from 2 to 26 March 1958. Such is the arrest of the patriots Kamto Donard, 1/ Fotso Joseph, Fongang Mathias, 3/ Tamba John, Touapie and Kamdem Justin in the province of Bamenda on the sole grounds that they distributed United Nations documents.... Considering that the patriots arrested, such as Fotso Joseph, Fongang Mathias, 3/ Tamba John, arrested on 23 March 1958, had been provided with a permit signed by the local authorities for public meetings and the boundaries of the sectors mentioned in the permit had not been defined.

"I therefore request the intervention of United Nations with the authorities concerned in order to obtain the liberation of the patriots detained in the colonialist gaol of Bamenda. The cessation of the savage repressive measures taken against the members of 'One Kamerun'."
(petitions 2 and 3)

(c) "The detention of the patriots Donard 1/, Koham Justin, 2/ Ngoumela Augustin, 4/ Totap Climent, from 2 to 9 March 1958 by the English authorities in the region of Bamenda and furiously inveigh against the rape of Kamerunian women like goats in the fields."
(petition No. 4)

(d) "We protest vehemently against the arrest active members One Kamerun carrying United Nations documents. Arbitrarily condemned six months' imprisonment by British authorities. We request United Nations intervention with British Government immediate liberation." (petition No.5)

2. Moreover, each of the authors of these petitions demands the immediate unification and independence of the Cameroons. One of them asks that this unification should be proclaimed through a popular referendum under the auspices of United Nations. Another demands the liberation of all political prisoners and the repatriation of the thirteen leaders of national liberation movements before any solution of the Cameroonian problem is contemplated. Another requests the repeal of the Decrees of 13 July 1955 and 3 June 1957.

1/, 2/ and 3/, see page 1.

4/ Note by the Secretariat: Document T/PET.5/1312 also mentions this name.

<u>Petitioner</u>		<u>Date of Petition</u>	<u>Place of origin</u>
1. Sipoufo Kanga Gaspar	Member of ONE KAMERUN	26.3.58	Bamenda
2. Mme Sipoufo Genevieve	housewife	26.3.58	Bamenda
3. Pierre Simo	planter at Bamenda	26.3.58	Bamenda
4. Mme Julienne Nondom	housewife	10.3.58	Bamenda
5. Branch ONE KAMERUN	Bamenda	26.3.58	Bamenda (cable)
