



UNITED NATIONS
TRUSTEESHIP
COUNCIL



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GENERAL

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ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

SIX PETITIONS COMPLAINING ABOUT THE ACTIVITIES OF THE CAMEROONS
DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION IN THE CAMEROONS UNDER BRITISH
ADMINISTRATION

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

1. Petition No.1 from Mr. Mathew Shingwa, Three Corner Kumba, dated 20 January 1958, reads as follows:

"The,
Housse of Commons London
United Nations Trusteeship Council
Governor-General Lagos
Council of Ministers Lagos
Housse of Assembly Camerocons Buea
The Colonial Secretary London
District officer kumba
C.D.C. Head Office Bota Victoria
Village Head kumba

Dear sirs,

Damage of my crops, by the Camercons Development Corporation (C.D.C.)

I have the honour must respectfully to beg to foward this my humble petition to your high office just to inform you of the damages was made to me by the C.D.C., in my farm on the 25/12/58 for action.

Sir it is supprising that after I was given a piece of land by the Natives of kumba, and after cultivating my crops in the farm for the periode of two years and haf, the C.D.C. on the 25/12/1958 without notice, entered my farm with Her Majesty's police No NPF-H/5716 in position of arms, together with groups of labourers and destroyed my crops.

After destruction in my farm, with crops, sir, the C.D.C. said that the land was belonging to them. To be very frank sir, I can assure your high office that the land had been claimed by the C.D.C. was given to me by che Mukete of kumba. I shall be very grateful, if your high office would kindly take seriouse in to this my humble petition, and to ask the C.D.C. to compensate to my crops and labour that has been damaged by them.

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I hope your high office will agree with me that a person's crops cannot be destroyed without giving him a notice to remove his crops, from the land, if at all the land is belonging to you.

Sir, if the C.D.C. knew that I was occupying their lands if at all it is their own without obtaining permission from them, the proper way which they have not done but taken a provocation cause, hence I am now claiming the following from the C.D.C.

Crops damage in my farm, as follows.

3600 banan plants	50 kola	100 palms
2000 coffee plants	15 magolo	
330 cocoa	75 pear	

Awaiting your favourable responds to this petition your's petitioner;

Shingwa Mathew (thumb print)"

2. Petition No. 2, from Mr. Philippe Dienda, c/o One Kamerun, Three Corner Kumba, dated 16 January 1958, is identical to the first petition with the following exceptions: crops were damaged on 29 December 1957, at 7 a.m. on a farm which the petitioner had been occupying for three years, and losses were as follows:

"Banana	3500	Coco yams	500
coffee	1900	vegetable	20
Kola	500	Cassava	5000
Plums	20	yams	30
Magclo	15	Cost of labour and many damages"	

3. Petition No. 3, from Mr. Joseph Mbiakom, dated 21 January 1958, is also identical to the first two except in the following respects: damage occurred on 1 January 1958, on a farm that had been worked for three years by the petitioner, and detail of losses suffered is as follows:

"512 stems of coffee which it has stated to give flowers out
852 -/- -/- banana I have been cutting some and send for export
122 -/- -/- coco
58 plantains -/-
they cut down many crops which are use as food, and cost of labour and many, many damages in my farm".

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4. Petition No. 4 is again identical to the three previous petitions. It emanates from Mr. Lucas Kenang and is dated 17 January 1958. The petitioner, who had been occupying a farm for a period of eight years, complains that he suffered the following losses at the hands of the agents of the C.D.C. on 4 January 1953:

"Banana	6000	Plum	50
coffee	3000	Magolo	230
kola	230	Cassava	
coco	2000	Vegetable	
		Cost of labour and many damages"	

5. Petition No. 5 is slightly different textually but the complaint is identical. The petitioner, Mr. Gabriel Ngunu, in an undated letter from Three Corner Kumba, states that although a native of the Bamileke region, he has been living in Kumba for almost thirty years. He obtained his farm from Bafaw-Kumba, known as Chief Madiki in Fiango. His plantation of 4,650 coffee trees, 2,800 banana trees, 2,400 cocoa trees, 500 kola nut trees and 150 palm trees, was destroyed "about 7 December 1957 to January 1958" by the C.D.C. The petitioner adds that nearly two thousand farmers suffered exactly the same fate as himself, and that there is nothing to prove that the land in question belongs to the C.D.C.

6. Petition No. 6 is again from someone living in Kumba for the last thirty years. The petitioner, Mr. Peter Chudi, c/o the United Africa Co. of Nigeria Ltd., in Kumba, states in a letter dated 20 February 1958 that his farm, which he had "lawfully" obtained from the "indigenous natives", was plundered by the C.D.C. on 28 December 1957 and that the following crops were destroyed:

"Banana Steams	24,000
Coffee Plants	5,000
Cocoa Trees	8,000
Kola nut trees	300
Cocoyam	10,000."
