

UNITED NATIONS
TRUSTEESHIP
COUNCIL



GENERAL

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PETITION FROM THE "ASSOCIATION AMICALE DE LA SANAGA
MARITIME" CONCERNING THE CAMEROONS UNDER
FRENCH ADMINISTRATION

Note by the Secretary-General: In accordance with rule 84 of the rules of procedure for the Trusteeship Council, the Secretary-General has the honour to transmit herewith to the members of the Trusteeship Council a communication dated 18 November 1949 from the "Association Amicale de la Sanaga Maritime" concerning the Trust Territory of the Cameroons under French administration.

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

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UNITED NATIONS

C O P Y

DRAFT REPORT

to be submitted to members of the United Nations
Mission on their visit to EDEA by the "Association
Amicale de la SANAGA MARITIME"

I: PUBLIC EDUCATION

Nobody can deny the tireless efforts made by the Administration of the Territory in connection with the education given unreservedly to the populations of the neighbouring towns. Nevertheless, at the first congress of the A.A.S.M. held at Edea on 9, 10, and 11 May 1948, we deplored the disproportionate way in which official education was divided among our population of 180,000 inhabitants, and we asked for the establishment of nine rural schools, and one regional school for girls, for the whole area covered by the three sub-divisions of Edea, Esaka and Babimbi. We also requested, in the technical field, a trade training school at Edea. We asked that these institutions should be established during the years 1948, 1949 and 1950.

None of the schemes has yet been put into execution. Hoping that the year 1950 will bring us every chance of success, we request that the Trusteeship Mission kindly urge the Administration of the Territory to give satisfaction to our social claims.

II. PUBLIC HEALTH

The few medical posts - at Edea, Esaka and Babimbi - at present in our Region are definitely inadequate in view of the size of the indigenous population. Certain cantons of the region have hitherto had no European medical assistance at all, and people there are obliged to have recourse to native forms of treatment which more often than not only make the ailment

worse. The construction of nine advanced posts - three per sub-division - was requested at the time of the congress. Only three of the nine have been built.

We urgently request the members of the United Nations Mission to intervene in order that the health service of the Territory may kindly give our dispensaries an adequate quota of medicaments and hasten the construction of the proposed advanced posts, the opening of which is urgently necessary.

The maternity hospital which has been in existence at Ldea since 1946 should be properly furnished.

III. ECONOMIC FIELD

At the congress the desire was expressed that we be granted the construction of a road from Kopongo to Bafia via Ngambe; a road from Eseké to Makak and as far as Otele; and a road from Eseké to Mbepe to Bafia via Bodmakak. As no start has been made with the carrying out of the proposed work, the population of Sanaga Maritime grouped behind the A.A.S.M. requests the members of the Trusteeship Mission to urge the Administration of the Territory to begin the construction of at least one of those roads as soon as possible.

IV. AGRICULTURE

The Sanaga-Maritime possesses land where all crops grow well. It is one of the districts which supply a considerable amount of food to the neighbouring towns and the various undertakings in the locality. As the Africans only have very rudimentary implements, the provision of modern equipment for the agricultural requirements of the Region is a most urgent need.

The existence of the Provident Society should be terminated, and the population would like such bodies to be changed into agricultural co-operatives.

Nothing has been done to meet the request made at the A.A.S.M. Congress for the supply of agricultural machinery to facilitate the harvesting of local produce (crushers, oil presses, etc.)

The "Association Amicale de la Sanaga-Maritime" requests the members of the United Nations Mission kindly to urge the local Administration to give satisfaction to our peasants.

V. CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETIES

The local co-operative societies set up in the neighbouring Regions have been fairly well supported by the Administration of the Territory. In spite of the recommendations of the A.A.S.M. Congress, and in spite of the repeated requests of the small planters of Sanaga-Maritime, no credit has yet been granted to our co-operative societies. No allocation of lorries has been made to our co-operative societies to facilitate the marketing of our produce.

To ensure the survival of our co-operative societies, we ask the United Nations Mission to approach the Administration of the Territory in support of our request that a subsidy of nine million francs be granted to the co-operative societies of our three sub-divisions.

C O N C L U S I O N

Apart from the few local claims outlined above, the population of Sanaga-Maritime grouped around the A.A.S.M. manifests in the presence of the United Nations Mission, its desire that the French Administration of the Cameroons be strengthened, reassures the latter of its profound attachment and loyalty, and finally would ask it to believe that in good times and in bad the inhabitants of SANAGA MARITIME will remain firmly and faithfully attached to the FRENCH UNION.

EDDA, 18 November 1949
for the "Association Amicale de la Sanaga-Maritime"

PRESIDENT-GENERAL (signed) (illegible)

The Secretary-General,

MPOUMA Samuel

Received at United Nations Headquarters on 2 December 1949.