

UNITED NATIONS  
TRUSTEESHIP  
COUNCIL



GENERAL

T/PET.5/54  
28 February 1950

ENGLISH  
ORIGINAL : FRENCH

Dual Distribution

PETITION FROM THE "EVOLUTION SOCIALE CAMEROUNAISE"  
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 22 November 1949 from the "Evolution Sociale Camerounaise" 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.

RECEIVED

MAY 25 1950

UNITED NATIONS  
ARCHIVES

C O P Y  
R E S O L U T I O N

OF THE EVOLUTION SOCIALE CAMEROUNAISE,  
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY BY ITS GENERAL ASSEMBLY ON 22 NOVEMBER 1949.

THE EVOLUTION SOCIALE CAMEROUNAISE ACCEPTS FRENCH TRUSTEESHIP  
UNDER THE BEST CONDITIONS AND ESPECIALLY SUBJECT TO RESPECT  
FOR HUMAN RIGHTS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE ATLANTIC CHARTER DRAWN  
UP AT SAN FRANCISCO

TO WHICH END IT SUBMITS TO THE UNITED NATIONS MISSION NOTES ON:

1. WORK DONE BY FRANCE IN THE CAMEROONS.
2. IMPROVEMENTS NECESSARY TO THE WELFARE AND  
DEVELOPMENT OF OUR COUNTRY.

DOUALA, 22 NOVEMBER 1949  
for the PRESIDENT-GENERAL, and by  
order of THE REGIONAL PRESIDENT

TONYE, Thomas  
(Signed) ..... (illegible)

SECRETARY-GENERAL,  
AMOUGOU, Joseph  
(signed) ..... (illegible)

Received at United Nations Headquarters on 2 December 1949.

C O P Y

EVOLUTION SOCIALE CAMEROUNAISE

---

We welcome the United Nations delegates who are now guests of our Territory.

This visit, which we have so long awaited, has lifted us suddenly out of the chronic pessimism of a dependent country and enabled us to take a more hopeful view of our future.

Article 22, paragraphs 7, 8 and 9 of the Covenant of the League of Nations provided, with effect from 13 February 1919, that a Council of the League should receive and examine the annual reports sent in by the Powers administering the mandated territories. As we know that the Cameroons were not placed under mandate until 6 July 1922, we must assume that all the official journals recording all the acts of the local Government were read, discussed, and approved by the Council of the League of Nations, for no other report could have been so full as those.

However, after the solemn declarations made at various international conferences, we cannot refrain from recognizing all the attempts which the United Nations is making to emancipate us. The Statute of Mandate having become obsolete, the Institute of Pacific Relations elaborated the Trusteeship system to meet the requirements of these times. After certain hesitations at the Yalta Conference, the Trusteeship Plan was debated at the San Francisco Conference. We are now under Trusteeship, a status of great promise which ensures our rapid progress towards independence. Another new feature is that the periodical visits organized by the League of Nations are more objective in scope than is the plain questionnaire proposed by the Trusteeship Council.

As the object of that questionnaire is to inform the Permanent Council of the United Nations on political, economic, social and cultural affairs, we will try to give you an additional sketch.

## POLITICAL

Since the ratification of the French Trusteeship Agreement, political emancipation has indubitably appeared to take a definite step forward.

The Thirty Years' Agreement ratified by Deputy Douala Manga Bell aroused many divergent opinions in the Cameroons, but discussion crystallized into two principal schools of thought, which eventually degenerated into two political groups.

The first of them to be formed was the U.P.C., the Union des Populations du Cameroun. This society has, needless to say, taken advantage of its seniority. It is actually a handful of natives who are particularly hostile to the French Trusteeship and who in a fit of enthusiasm have with the help of the French Communists formed a club to upset the Trusteeship, although this was duly ratified by a prince of the Cameroons who is also a deputy. This party has particularly tendentious leanings, and overwhelms the elected representatives of the Territory and even the Government with harsh criticism.

Those inhabitants of the Cameroons who do not share those views remained silent for some time. When, however, the U.P.C. claimed to withdraw the mandate from Deputy Manga Bell in the name of the whole of the Cameroons, the majority of the people rose in protest against that outrage. That movement finally became an opposing political party which advocated the retention of Deputy Manga Bell in the National Assembly and countered by supporting the thirty-year French Trusteeship. That party is the Evolution Sociale Camerounaise, which is submitting this report to you.

The Trusteeship

We would not state that the people of the Cameroons were consulted before the Trusteeship Agreement was signed. However, even if it was, such a consultation would have had no validity, because at that time, apart from the Jeunesse Camerounaise Française, no political group capable of deciding such a question existed. There is no doubt that those individuals who were consulted separately could have had no liberty of conscience in making their declarations.

The Jeunesse Camerounaise Française, as its name implies, was so francophile as to be disqualified. In the whole circumstances we thought it best to put the question back on the Agenda, and in full liberty of conscience we have adopted the thirty-year French Trusteeship.

In view of all the difficulties raised by that Trusteeship agreement, we have divided our programme into two well-defined periods: that coinciding with the French Trusteeship, and that which will succeed it.

#### During the French Trusteeship

During this period we shall concentrate our efforts chiefly on instilling into the mass of the people a political, social and cultural emancipation, to meet the difficulties which are likely to arise when the Trusteeship comes to an end.

#### POLITICAL

We will utilize the quarter of a century still to run before the French Trusteeship ends to mark out the main lines that the nation which is to guide us in the future must accept. We are convinced that treaties drafted exclusively by metropolitan Powers bypass, either involuntarily or by omission, the essential points which might lead us rapidly to independence. During twenty-five years we shall have plenty of time to mark out those essential points. Thus, when we reach the end of the French Trusteeship, we shall undoubtedly be competent to determine ourselves the duration of the next Trusteeship period. We therefore ask the United Nations, and particularly France, to remain faithful at all times to the instructions of the Trusteeship Council and help us in every way to continue to work peacefully during the remaining quarter of a century. All the work of our congress will be widely publicized, to enable all sections of the Cameroons to formulate their own criticism. Thus, after twenty-five years' digestion, we shall submit a final report which will really represent the will of the whole Cameroons. We will not harm the interests of anyone, but we do not intend that our own shall be harmed.

### Social Relationships

There still exists today some lack of confidence in the African masses, That is generally due, in reality, to lack of understanding in the indigenous inhabitants themselves. It cannot be denied that civil servants and, more generally, educated Africans are misjudged by the backward masses. To take a loftier view, we will say that Europeans and Africans do not understand one another. From one point of view, we do not see anything abnormal in that state of affairs. What is beginning to make us anxious is that the French, who have undertaken before the League of Nations the task of civilizing us, retire in the heart of the African continent into special restaurants and cinemas. We have, so to speak, no contact with them except during working hours, when they are still nearly all shut away in their offices. Even if we admit that such civilizing contact is sufficient for us, what will become of our wives and children, who do not come to work and see the white Frenchman? If it were possible to civilize men from a distance, we should have preferred to take our civilization by correspondence. We insist firmly that such practices shall come to an end. If we accept French Trusteeship, it is above all necessary that the French shall agree to be our trustees. We desire that public places shall be open to everyone without discrimination of colour.

In all the publications reaching us which purport to come from the United Nations we have noticed that more advanced countries are given greater freedom. That is quite logical. Let us transpose the same idea into our purely local situation. Why do educated Africans at the present day not enjoy the same social privileges as Europeans? Educated Africans are addressed in the familiar form (tutoyés) by Europeans with less education than they have. They cannot always buy certain articles of food because they are not allowed to, and they cannot obtain particular trading licences because Europeans have the monopoly of them. In our work for the development of the Cameroons we intend also to defend our educated persons. It will therefore be necessary to define the degree of evolution necessary to an African in order that he may enjoy the same advantages as Europeans without needing to become a French citizen.

It is well understood that many minor irregularities are still countenanced in the Cameroons, but they are harmless enough not to need international treatment, and we hope to settle them ourselves with our Trustees.

## ECONOMIC QUESTIONS

### ECONOMY (a general survey)

The economy of the Cameroons cannot be said to have reached a high stage of development. Moreover, the indigenous inhabitants make a very poor contribution to the economic development of the Territory, not because they are lazy, as Europeans say, but because they are reduced to the status of employees although they sometimes feel capable of working on their own account.

### TRADE

At present nearly all trade is in the hands of Europeans. Many Africans apply for licences to open shops but fail to obtain satisfaction. It is always said that Africans are apt to seek unlawful profits. However, we know many Greek merchants who work under the same conditions as Africans. Also, we wonder what exactly is the reason why the Greeks come here, seeing that they do absolutely nothing to civilize the black man. They are content merely to cheat the African in order to amass immense fortunes. It is not difficult to bring evidence of that, since they are nearly all multi-millionaires. If all nations are allowed to come into a country under Trusteeship, we suppose that the chief reason is to try to civilize use. We ask simply and solely that the Greeks shall withdraw from our Territory, seeing that their stay here is of no benefit to us and that their success in trade is always achieved at our expense. Wherever Africans are able to exercise a similar activity, the Greeks get in first. We could not for long put up with a position in which the Greeks engage in industry and not ordinary retail trade.

### COMMUNICATIONS

The state of its communications is still a great obstacle to the development of the economy of the Territory. In several regions the indigenous inhabitants

themselves have taken the initiative in opening up roads, with the generous work of volunteers, without waiting for the Government to take action. That shows that the Africans themselves bring plenty of goodwill to the development of their country.

The railway problem is still unsolved. In a country such as this, where every proposal costing money founders on the exiguity of the budget, it is better to make only claims which cost little or nothing.

#### PORTS

There is no doubt that the Port of Douala has developed, although the plan for its expansion has remained in abeyance in spite of the generous provision allotted for its renewal. In order, however, to improve the supply to the interior, it would be a good thing if the port of Kribi were able to operate normally.

#### AGRICULTURE

The Agricultural Department has achieved some success in our Territory, especially in the cultivation of quinquina and bananas.

QUINQUINA is grown at the Dschang agricultural station. The cultivation of this plant would have made a great contribution to the development of the economy of our country, but unfortunately it is forbidden to Africans. We ask that quinquina cultivation should be permitted to all.

BANANAS. Banana-growing flourishes very well in the Cameroons, especially along the Northern Railway. It is a matter for regret that Europeans, who are in a minority, are entitled between them to load twice as many bananas as all the indigenous planters put together. The result is that most Africans, although they grow large quantities, cannot send away more than a tiny fraction of their crop, the remainder being sold on site at ridiculously low prices or even left to rot down to manure in the plantations. This matter urgently needs settlement, and the loading quotas should be fixed fairly.



FORESTRY

Forestry licences are granted to Europeans only, and it would be a good thing if Africans also could benefit by them.

STOCK BREEDING

The northern region of the Cameroons has a great reputation for stock breeding. The produce of that industry reaches, however, only the large towns of the South. Africans living in forest villages have a diet very low in proteins. It would therefore be beneficial to encourage stock breeding in the South by setting up farms in the large villages. The new trypanosome preventives could be used on a scale comparable to the present use of premaline in the prevention of malaria. The development of stock breeding in the Southern Cameroons is one of the chief factors in the food problem of this area.

LABOUR

The labour question is extremely important at the present time. It cannot be denied that since forced labour was abolished, manpower has become very scarce. A question that remains to be answered is the cause of the scarcity. Many colonialist employers have accused the black man of being lazy without attempting to understand the reason for his attitude. We reproduce below the production figures compiled by the Cameroons Press and Information Service:

	1938	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948
Cocoa	30,906	35,093	38,440	33,956	40,432	42,583
Coffee	4,251	5,075	6,699	5,858	8,000	4,931
Rubber	1,437	3,226	3,364	3,586	2,872	2,421
Palm kernels	33,132	35,284	17,914	26,154	31,295	26,800
Palm oil	8,924	4,680	3,988	1,560	1,256	2,534
Bananas						
Fresh	25,992			5,377	20,972	31,000
Dry			250	909	840	590
Soap		1,412	2,225	3,922	3,567	
Timber	40,817	22,172	14,960	42,828	57,595	60,800
Rutile	183	2,902	1,039	1,350	508	
Tin	315	236	189	85	216	

It will be seen that products supplied directly by African planters, such as cocoa and coffee, show an almost constantly rising curve, while products such as palm kernels, palm oil, rutilite and tin show a constant decline. That proves clearly that Africans have realized that they were wasting their time by working as hired labourers with Europeans and have therefore attempted to set up in a small way on their own. This does not in any way suggest that the blacks are lazy. Today most labourers are paid between 1,500 and 1,800 francs, which according to the employers is the minimum living wage for an African. How can we help objecting to so grave an injustice? Why is it an injustice? If we accept as accurate the food rations set out by Professor Blanchard on page 380 of his "Précis d'Epidémiologie", we are entitled to say that the minimum living wage of an African should be calculated on the basis of the following ration:

	Kg.	Value at Douala at present market prices Fr.
Rice	0.750	26.25
Fish or meat	0.200	20.—
Palm oil	0.060	2.40
Groundnuts	0.050	2.—
Salt	0.020	1.—
		<hr/> 51.65 <hr/>

It will therefore be noted that the most meagre diet possible for an African costs 51.65 francs. We do not wish to discuss the correctness of such a diet. The report of the Nutrition Conference recently held at Dschang tells us that Africans often go short of various vitamins. We will, however, confine ourselves here to Dr. Blanchard's data.

Moreover, every labourer has the right to a wife, whom he must feed. He must therefore earn two rations a day, costing 103.30 francs, or 3,099 francs a month.

The only labourers in the town of Douala come from the interior of the Cameroons. It is therefore necessary to allow an extra 400 francs for lodging

each African household. Finally, limiting the purchasing power of the labourer to 500 francs for light, clothing and his other modest needs, we find that the real minimum living wage of an African is:

3,099 fr. food  
400 fr. lodging  
500 fr. clothing etc.

---

3,999 francs

---

Why say, therefore, that Africans are lazy before meeting their most elementary needs?

### EDUCATION

During the French Trusteeship our education policy will not be limited merely to sending our children to secondary schools. We desire during that period to train native teachers, who could be extremely useful to us after the present period is over. We shall not be satisfied with ordinary training scholarships as awarded at present. We know that Trusteeship concerns chiefly the country benefiting by it, but none the less all civilized nations equally owe a duty of ordinary humanity. For that reason we ask of the United Nations that education shall be dealt with on the international level. We hope that all nations will grant us annual scholarships to assist us in training teachers of Cameroons origin. We lay particular stress on this matter of native Cameroons teachers, because our Trustees always answer, when we ask for French teachers, that these will not come to Africa because they are not well enough paid. We therefore ask that the civilized world shall find a speedy solution to this serious problem. We even have today some colleges in the Cameroons which employ primary-school teachers to take secondary-school classes. We know very well that if we do not put forth all our efforts to solve this education problem, then when the French Trusteeship comes to an end the United Nations will blame us for not being sufficiently advanced to deserve a higher status than that which we now have. What we want is not simply people with minor qualifications who will languish in subordinate posts in offices, overwhelmed by the university education of their European heads. We want properly-qualified instructors

in all branches of learning who will one day be able to shine in Cameroons academies.

It will take considerably more than 25 years to carry out this programme. We are aware of that. That is why we have asked for scholarships to be awarded even to young civil servants who wish to pursue their studies. Those now engaged in certain occupations for which they have had to study hard could easily finish their training in less than 15 years and become real masters of their specialty. An example can be found in civil servants like African medical officers, who in addition to their general studies have done four years of medicine, during which they have spent all their mornings with their teachers treating patients. There is no doubt that those officers possess, when they pass out of the Dakar School of Medicine, enough medical training to enable them to treat patients. We only mention them by way of example, for there are actually many young civil servants sufficiently qualified in their particular specialties to be capable of acquiring deep learning if they were sent to Metropolitan institutions. That class of young civil servants must not be overlooked if the aim is to speed up the development of the Cameroons. Moreover, we have already had sufficient proof of their keenness. African doctors who have gone to France have within three years passed both parts of their baccalauréat and finished their medical course. One African midwife required only a few months to gain her colonial midwifery diploma. A pupil-teacher who passed out of the Douala trade training school obtained his diploma as assistant technical instructor in six months. All those examples are encouraging. We ask that young civil servants - or, more exactly, young natives of the Cameroons capable of receiving higher education with profit - shall be given scholarships adequate to enable them to pursue their studies. We need teachers properly qualified in all branches. We cannot rest content with the arbitrary explanations sometimes given us by departmental heads, who maintain that there is a shortage of staff in the administrative services. Hundreds of young people are at present unemployed in the Cameroons and have no possibility of finding work befitting their ambitions. Those demagogic arguments have slowed down

our development enough; it is time that serious thought were given to civilizing us. Hitherto the Education Department has preferred to send young persons of school age to France. We are well aware that the future belongs to those young persons, but our Trustees must not forget that as well as a scholastic education there is also a patriotic one. All our children who have gone to France at an early age have completely lost their patriotism by the time they return and have acquired a completely European manner of thinking. Some of them will no longer consort with black people because they no longer think along the same lines as we do. We therefore prefer to send our children to Europe when they are old enough, or in other words when they have sufficiently developed the feeling that they belong to the Cameroons. We do not want to send them to France until they are old enough to take the baccalauréat.

It is, however, very difficult to pass the baccalauréat, now that we have so few teachers. It would be a good thing to send teachers not merely into the colleges but also into the large towns, so that all young people who have not been able to enter college may likewise obtain their baccalauréat and be entitled to join classes of higher education. Those who have to take their baccalauréat by private study will obviously have to pay their teachers themselves at the current rate, as a supplement to the teachers' official salaries.

It would not be a bad plan to give older candidates a special concession such as is given in France to ex-servicemen. Our shortage of classes and the somewhat arbitrary allocation of our teachers are factors which prejudice our children at school in comparison with their opposite numbers in France. Generally speaking, the pupils themselves are in no way responsible for their backwardness. We believe that these handicaps will arouse the sympathy of the teaching profession. That is why we ask to be given a special baccalauréat course in the Cameroons.

PUBLIC HEALTH

In surveying the various activities of the French Administration in the Cameroons, we can say impartially that the contribution made by the Medical Department to the development of our Territory is incomparable. Dr. Jamot's splendid work on sleeping sickness has put us under a debt of gratitude to the French. Many other improvements have also been made in our time. The number of dispensaries has been greatly increased, and advanced stations have been set up in the large villages. A mobile hygiene and preventive service has been set up to deal with social diseases in the home. Hygiene is taught in all parts of the Cameroons through the newspapers, many of which are translated into the indigenous language. The Indigenous Medical Welfare system is still in operation at a time when everything is tending to become revenue-producing, including school teaching. In addition, the Health Department was the first to train proper African assistants, who are already good enough to be regarded as collaborators and not as mere employees. Although African medical officers are not as well qualified as doctors of medicine, they none the less belong to the cream of the African world and therefore should have privileges commensurate with their social rank. Many mean things have been done on many occasions to devalue this class of civil servant, but it is often forgotten that, making due allowances, African medical officers hold a higher position in African society than an ordinary doctor of medicine holds in French society. That is the ground on which we ask that justice shall be done to them in every respect in which they suffer material and moral injury. We will repeat constantly that we are working for the social evolution of the Cameroons (Evolution Sociale Camerounaise), and that we shall therefore always defend our educated men whenever such evolution is itself the cause of their being persecuted.

We should like military medical officers to consider adopting henceforward, in the Health Department, a policy of welcoming Africans. As it is, European medical officers think too much of militarism and do not remember that everyone is entitled to consideration even if he does not wear a gold stripe on his shoulder. Africans often suffer from this and so some would prefer to have a civil medical service. We ourselves think that military medical officers will agree to start, at once, making their system more flexible, and for that reason we do not ask at present for the establishment of a civil medical service in the country. Moreover, some natives of the Cameroons have studied in the universities for the same diploma as Europeans. They should be given the same privileges as Europeans. We know a pharmacist in the Territory who holds a proper university diploma but who is not allowed a car because he is an African. There must be an end of such practices.

We propose the following improvements in the Health Department:

1. Modernization of hospitals; enlargement and establishment of new hospitals; more dispensaries and advanced stations.
2. Training of an efficient African staff.

a) Doctors of Medicine

African medical officers of the Cameroons, who have passed both parts of their baccalauréat should be immediately admitted to a university medical course in France. The government should try to help young African medical officers who desire to continue their studies and gain their doctorate of medicine. They ought to receive many privileges.

When the Cameroons has a considerable number of students who have obtained their baccalauréat, we ask that a faculty of medicine shall be opened at Ayos. Such a school might be named after Dr. Jamot.

b) Health Assistants (Assistants Sanitaires)

These should be recruited among certified male nurses and should, in addition to their two-year nursing course, take a further year's instruction in the training centre at Ayos and then be given the title of health assistant.

Young men holding the elementary certificate or possessing equivalent qualifications should also be allowed to enter the Ayos training centre for a three year training course, on completion of which they would be appointed health assistants.

c) Male Nurses, Nurse-Midwives

The number of places at the Ayos school should be increased from 30 to 150; 100 boys and 50 girls. The boys should be employed in the General Service, the Mobile Hygiene and Preventive Service, and the Urban Hygiene Service. The girls should work in the various lying-in hospitals in the Territory.

3. ESTABLISHMENT OF ORPHANAGES

These should follow the type of the Children's City at Yaounda, which admits persons of mixed blood of both sexes at state expense. We ask for similar centres in each regional capital to admit only young orphans of both sexes.



4. Medical staff should be trained in managing public services. The management of health units should be entrusted to Africans.
5. Sufficient credits should be allotted to the health department for the systematic detection not only of sleeping sickness but of all the diseases afflicting so many poor persons of this African country. A special team should be appointed for each administrative region for detecting cases and administering treatment.
6. We ask that doctors, either civil or military, shall be sent to the Cameroons.

#### DEMOGRAPHY IN THE CAMEROONS

Cameroons demography has considerable importance. The population of the Cameroons may not have increased, but it has at any rate remained stationary. In certain regions, however, it has decreased appreciably, as for example in the following:

	<u>1946</u>	<u>1948</u>
Mbam	105,000	102,000
Ht. Nyong	82,000	80,000
Ntem	145,000	144,000
Kribi	46,000	45,000
N. & Sanaga	440,000	427,000

The decrease is less marked in some regions, and in the Bamileke region there has been a large and progressive increase. There is no doubt that, according to current statistics, the present fall must be regarded as much less than that of 1949. Nevertheless, such as it is, it shows that Cameroons demography deserves the careful attention of the local authorities.

The low birth rate seems to be due to several factors.

#### ETHNOGRAPHIC CONSIDERATIONS:

Early marriage: Some Cameroons families give their daughters in marriage under age. The Administration should exercise strict supervision over this practice.

Polygamy: The cause may be deduced from the effect. As polygamy has in the past had harmful effects in our country, its restriction is due.

Dowry: This institution has lost its original meaning in the Cameroons and now constitutes a real purchase price. Because of it many young men in the Cameroons are unable to marry, and will remain bachelors all their lives because their financial means will never allow them to buy a wife, the average price of whom today is never less than 30,000 francs. They are therefore compelled to live promiscuously, spreading venereal disease. The dowry in the Cameroons should be guided back to its original meaning. Our lack of understanding and the greed of certain people have distorted it from its proper pattern.

GENERAL CONSIDERATIONS:

Enlistment of labour This accounts for some decrease in the birth rate in bush villages. For the two or three years of their contract of service, the community is deprived of producers and reproducers who, because of the physical qualities required by their work, are the most potent. Moreover, some of those young men do not return to their native village but die far from home or prefer to settle in a town.

Prostitution The local authorities have failed, with all their ingenuity, to limit prostitution. They have obviously failed because they have aimed at the effects and forgotten the cause. The administration is quite aware that prostitution in the Cameroons is chiefly due to:

The dowry, which increases the number of unmarried girls.

lack of education of girls, whom their parents do not sufficiently warn against the horrors of a life of prostitution.

the large number of white bachelors, who gratify their sexual desires with these unmarried girls and in so doing arouse in them the taste for money. In this connection prostitutes have reason to be especially grateful to the Greeks, who take pleasure in building them permanent dwellings and making them rich. It

seems to us that if the work of the Greeks as civilizers is to stop there, the Cameroons could well do without them, as their presence would be of no use to our Territory.

### MEDICAL CONSIDERATIONS

Alcoholism We do not see the advantage of becoming in some years' time a kind of zoo exhibit, as is said of a certain race dying out through drunkenness. For that reason all drunkenness should be punishable by law as a public scandal. The copious importation of alcohol, particularly of spirits, sometimes without control, must surely be regarded as one of the sources of the demographic crisis which threatens our country.

Social Diseases This is the most important problem. Syphilis, gonorrhoea, tuberculosis and leprosy constitute a grim spectacle, particularly in the large towns. The records of most of these diseases are swelled daily by new cases of death, sterility, impotence, physiological misery, and social disorder of every kind. Systematic, effective and immediate measures of prevention are necessary.

Endemic Diseases A similar affliction which must not be overlooked and which is equally rife is malaria. Its incidence in the population makes it justly regarded as one of the greatest social scourges of the Cameroons. Its evil effects show themselves particularly in the ill-health of indigenous children, who are all too often without or almost without protection and have a very high mortality rate.

Finally, there are the parasitic diseases, whose victims are just as numerous.

In addition to public health measures there should be a movement to instruct the public through the press and the cinema, illustrating the ill effects of disease and easy and practical rules for its prevention.

### EDUCATION IN THE CAMEROONS

Although education is vitally important and is indeed the foundation of a country's development, it has not progressed far in the Cameroons. No wonder that the French language has not come into general use, and that a newly-arrived Frenchman has very often to use an interpreter or speak Pidgin, commonly called "bush English". This language is widely spoken in the large coastal towns of the Southern Cameroons and is spreading further and further into the whole territory. One sometimes wonders what are the underlying reasons for this state of affairs. The truth is that the English, carrying on trade in the Cameroons very soon attracted indigenous inhabitants in need of a livelihood. France did not remember her duty to spread enlightenment among this ignorant mass which she had conquered, and in which she was less interested than she was in making use of the natural wealth of the country. In consequence of certain reforms which followed that initial stage, France saw her mistake and is remedying it. That delay in realization is, however, the cause of the very small number of French schools, of the inferior quality and too frequent absence of teaching staff, and in short of the relatively low standard of education.

Some private institutions, such as the Catholic and American missions, attained a fairly high standard of instruction, but official education was confined to complementary primary instruction, and has only been extended during the last five years. Trade training has been very limited; moral education is rudimentary; physical education and games are not encouraged; and scientific education does not exist at all.

#### PRIMARY EDUCATION

The indigenous inhabitants of the Cameroons have not yet come to understand the need for sending their children to school early, and even the idea of the infant school is in general unknown to them, as most of the mothers are illiterate. Too often the result is that the child enters school without any knowledge of the alphabet at an age when his faculties and senses have already taken another course (9 to 12 years). This new social atmosphere is strange to him; he becomes resistant to this system.

which he finds being imposed on him, and at once reacts by taking flight. Hence the large number of children who prefer service as house-boys, cook's helps, and the like, who are commonly known as "sergeant boys" and who contribute liberally to the corruption of the morals of the youth of the Cameroons.

We should suggest the following reforms to remedy this state of affairs:

Compulsory attendance of every child at school from seven years onwards.

Penalties for parents neglecting or refusing to send their children.

Detection and severe punishment of children refusing to attend.

Age limit for primary education:

Until 1955, to be raised to 17 years

From 1955 to 1958, to be fixed at 15 years

From 1960 onwards, to remain at 13 years

Opening of a school in every village with 5,000 inhabitants.

Opening of a school up to intermediate course, second year, in every large centre of population.

Encouragement of private education, which is already important in the spread of instruction in the Cameroons.

We should be making a serious mistake, for which we should never be forgiven, if we said nothing about those large-scale and unjustified dismissals of pupils which take place in various primary schools. Thus cases have occurred of children who have been dismissed from the school at their place of origin, going with the best of intentions and joining another school far away, thus running the risk of severe undernourishment. To prevent such ill-usage, we hope that there may be set up in each sub-division a school disciplinary council, constituted as follows:

A member of the teaching staff representing the complainant.

A representative of the administration

The president of a customary court

Educated notables of the country.

These would hear the case against the accused pupil and sentence him, according to the gravity of the offence, to:

- 1) Punishment with first caution
- 2) Punishment with second caution
- 3) Simple expulsion disqualifying from admission to any school in the region.

### SECONDARY EDUCATION

Secondary studies are certainly not above the capacity of the indigenous inhabitants, for Catholic and Protestant seminaries preparing for the priesthood have existed since 1923. The administration has purposely treated it with disgraceful neglect, so that official secondary education has only started in the Cameroons within the last five years. This tardiness is one of the principal pieces of evidence which support public opinion in asserting that the Colonialism of recent years has not wished to further the cultural evolution of our country.

Even today those diehards continue from time to time to turn in their sleep. Thus, as recently as June 1949 we saw one of the most striking manifestations of the tendency. Out of twenty-four candidates for the baccalauréat, eighteen passed the written test after marking at Bordeaux, but three only were admitted finally, including only one Cameroonian, after oral examination at Yaoundé. The proportion is almost incredible, but the incident really happened and is most instructive.

In the official system secondary education comprises four mixed colleges, one each at: Yaoundé; Douala (for girls); Nkongsamba; and Garoua in the Northern Cameroons.

We regard that number as inadequate in view of the numerous successes in the primary course which are achieved every year. Consequently we ask for:

An increase in the number of colleges (for example, one in each regional capital).

Supervision of the award of the elementary certificate and the baccalauréat, to ensure that they are deserved.

Notable contributions to secondary education have been made by private schools, which are given little encouragement by the Administration. The chief of these, which are run by the Mission, are at EfoK, Makak, Douala and Yaoundé.

#### HIGHER EDUCATION

Our education in the Cameroons will not be confined to the secondary standard. Our wish is that the Cameroons shall be provided with higher schools of all kinds which will enable future winners of the baccalauréat to realize their lofty hopes. Would it not be desirable to plan for the nucleus of a university, with a number of inaugural faculties, for the near future?

#### DOMESTIC EDUCATION

This has quite distinct features. We are well aware that we cannot expect any remarkable developments so long as our women continue to live in the background. Hitherto we have expressed some scepticism in regard to the cultural education of women in the Cameroons, as experience has shown us that educated women nearly always look forward to rising above African society. In reality this attitude is not so much due to contempt for our social level as to the poverty of our financial means, which will cease to be sufficient when our women-folk become more extravagant. The truth is that most educated Cameroons women are not sufficiently trained in household duties. When they marry they launch out at once into a varied and extravagant domestic life in disregard of the poor pittance which, when all is said and done, is all we receive. Everything being considered, the result is that whenever we let our daughters continue their studies into the higher standards, we find we have wasted our efforts. We know, also,

that we are going through a transitional period and are always encountering unexpected difficulties. This, however, is a vital problem which deserves special attention. For the sake of our future we cannot refuse to encourage our womenfolk to take the same studies as we do; but it is essential for them also to have an adequate domestic education designed to be of use to the African family. In this connection we ask that domestic education should be widely disseminated throughout the Cameroons, and that whenever educated young people marry, it should be stated whenever necessary whether the girl has a certificate of domestic proficiency or not. We also demand, in order to prevent the unfair practice adopted by some Europeans nowadays of persuading educated African women to be disloyal to their race, that provision should be made that, before a study scholarship is granted to a girl, she and her parents should give an undertaking that at the end of her schooling she should not marry anyone but an African black. Such a measure obviously seems to encroach to some extent on the personal freedom of the girl, and to do violence to the gross cupidity of certain parents. As, however, the matter concerns the future of the whole country, we ask that our statement may be taken into account, even if only during the present Trusteeship.

#### MORAL EDUCATION

Purely scholastic education must have as its indispensable counterpart education contributing to the training of the good citizen.

It is always difficult to induce an adult to recognize moral principles, and it is often impossible to impose on him a daily burden to guard against a danger in which he does not believe. That is the reason why education must begin with the child, who by exercise and habit must be trained to the easy and automatic fulfilment of his duty towards himself and society,

The black man is too often accused of lacking character and conscience. Such statements are by way of reaction, and are sometimes justified by unhappy instances. They have, however, become so general that the mere possession of a black skin is a disgrace. Considering the facts, why should



he be condemned so heavily? Would the black man be resistant to every kind of education which one might try to impose on him? Certainly not! The truth is that the methods hitherto employed have been inadequate or practically non-existent.

In this connection the great work performed by the missions must be acknowledged; unfortunately the Administration has not given them the assistance which they need. Native children, the raw material of the nation, have thus been left to themselves and their own natural inclinations. The results have been the examples, unfortunately numerous, which are attributable to bad education and ignorance.

It is true that moral instruction is given in our official schools. There is no need, however, to point out that the morals taught have no roots and are apt to be vague and to lack any positive aim. Methods of moral education must therefore be revised as follows:

I. Practical morality The child should be taught the personal duty which he owes to society and the progress of humanity:

1) The child's physical life should be trained by:

Physical culture, exercise

Obedience to the laws of health

Instruction in the dangers of alcohol and immorality

" " " " contagious disease

2) His will must be trained, to develop in him a strong, industrious and courageous human personality.

3) His intelligence must be cultivated, to develop his freedom of thought.

4) These sentiments must be developed:

Love for his parents

Respect and obedience towards his seniors

Personal dignity

A sense of justice and generosity

In advanced classes, especially in trade training schools, this preliminary moral teaching will reach its highest development in the teaching of:

II. Morality in work

Understanding of the concepts of right and wrong

Need for good work for the sake of the development of society

Grasp of the full meaning of professional integrity.

III. Domestic morality: the family - its aims

Duty to the home: the protection, well-being and happiness of its members.

Duty to society: the procreation, upbringing and education of children.

IV. Civic and political morality

Explanation to the child of the meaning of his country.

Instruction in the various functions of the State.

Young people still at school are so stuffed with politics that when they leave school they go blindly into political parties which often bear no relation to their natural ways of thought. It is therefore desirable that education should show young persons the genuine love which we should bear our country, but without pressing them to join any party in particular.

TRADE TRAINING

There are no very good workmen in the Cameroons. Attempts have been made to remedy this state of affairs by sending to France, for further training, young persons engaged in different branches of work. That idea, although a very good one, has not given the results which were hoped for. News recently appeared that large numbers of these young workers have been incapable of continuing their courses and have been sent back to the Cameroons. The truth was that they had been chosen at random without competition, and

the education of most of them was below average. The scholarship system should be encouraged, but unfortunately the granting of scholarships encounters innumerable difficulties. It should be encouraged because, in addition to the technical knowledge which the students acquire, they profit by their complete immersion in the French atmosphere.

Some attempts have been made to operate trade training schools in this country but have not extended very far. Thus, the Cameroons has:

The Douala trade training school

The Yaoundé agricultural school

The stock-breeding schools in the North and in the Dschang region

The craft school of Ebolowa

In addition to the foundation of many more of these schools, in which the present instruction and equipment are comparatively primitive, we would ask that they be staffed with qualified teachers and fitted with modern apparatus, and that their teaching should be made more thorough.

#### SCIENTIFIC EDUCATION

Scientific study in the Cameroons would certainly give very interesting results in view of the variety of natural areas in the country. It has never been seriously taken up in the Cameroons. Some investigations have been made by French workers on fauna and by English workers on flora, but that work has not been systematically and regularly pursued and so has not given an accurate picture of the facts. No other field of work has been entered.

That, however, will not always be so. A plan has just been made to establish in the Cameroons an office of scientific research. We hope that this excellent idea will get beyond the official paper stage in which ideas are usually condemned to remain, and will be put into effect as soon as possible. We particularly hope that the indigenous inhabitants of the Cameroons will be introduced to this new learning and that our country will soon have native research workers qualified in various branches.

JUSTICE

Since the occupation of the Cameroons by the French we have continually complained of the system of justice set up in our Territory. At the time when the indigénat system was in full swing we protested against the justice which administrators used to mete out arbitrarily in their areas, with no other code than their own temper. A more complicated form of justice has now superseded the first system, and magistrates, quoting the Code Napoléon, which belongs neither to us nor to our customs, daily pronounce verdicts which may be just, but which do not correspond to our way of judging things. Such a divergence of view creates between French justice and ourselves an atmosphere of bitter distrust incompatible with good understanding. Obviously we have not the same psychological constitution as Europeans, as is shown by their constantly telling us that we are "stupid". Moreover, we cannot refrain from mentioning certain facts which frequently occur. Magistrates always seem to find a reason for being lenient whenever a European appears before them. We cannot say that we reject French law, but we ask that Africans should be allowed to prepare in five years a code of Cameroonian customary law, to be observed concurrently with the French codes. We also ask that judges should be elected by the people, for we have the impression that a certain tendentious bias exists in some courts, particularly the criminal courts.

We demand equality before the law. We often wonder why Europeans who are imprisoned enjoy special treatment while Africans are fed like pigs. Moreover, every imprisonment here entails hard labour. Every prisoner is made to work, whereas Europeans are merely detained. Apparently there is a difference between us and Europeans; but if so, why are we judged by the same code?

POLICE

In recent times the Cameroons Police has been roundly condemned by most Africans. The force is manned by thugs and torturers and has remained

the outstanding disgrace of imperialism. What is even harder to bear is that all this brutality is unleashed solely on Africans. The notorious Garde Camerounaise is so recruited as practically to exclude anyone with any education. Recently nearly all recruits have been ex-servicemen. One is left to enquire whether this force, which is composed of demobilized ex-servicemen, reservists, is not really a military reserve. We therefore ask for a police force composed of educated men capable of understanding their work instead of vieing with one another in spreading disorder among Africans. Other work could be found to keep the ex-servicemen from unemployment.

In concluding our report we ask the United Nations Mission to examine closely the various questions which we, in order to avoid undue length, have no more than touched upon. If further information should be required, we are entirely at your disposal at all times. We also hope that the whole world will be informed of everything we have stated, and that the civilized nations will examine with humane intentions our principal grievances. Our political party has tried to ask only for things which cost little or nothing, and we hope that the people of the Cameroons, whom we represent, will know a more prosperous future.

In the name of the people of the Cameroons we bow deeply in greeting to your honourable Mission, and express our sincere belief in the humane objects of your visit to our Territory.

Douala, 25 November 1949

President, Wouri Regional  
Section, E.S.C.

(Signed) ..... (illegible)

TONYE THOMAS

COPY

EVOLUTION SOCIALE CAMEROUNAISE  
Douala Regional Section

Douala, 22 November 1949

President, Esocam, Douala

To the Delegate of the High Commissioner of the French  
Republic of Douala

by courtesy of the Mayor Administrator  
Head of the Wouri Region, Douala

In accordance with the instructions of our executive committee at Yaounde dated November 1949, and telegram No. 2189 of 18 November 1949 authorising the regional Section of Esocam at Douala to make contact with the United Nations Visiting Mission,

I have the honour to ask you to be good enough to grant us that interview with the Visiting Mission, and to inform us in advance of the day and time at which we may attend.

I also submit the list of names of our delegation, which is made up as follows:

1) Messrs.

TONYE, Thomas - President

BASSONG, Jean-Marc - Vice-President

AMOUGOU, Joseph-René - Secretary-General

BILOUNGA, Etienne - Delegate General

NKOULOU, Hubert - Counsellor

We have the honour to be, etc.