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PETITION FROM EX-SERVICEMEN OF THE R.W.A.F.F. CONCERNING THE  
CAMEROONS UNDER BRITISH AND UNDER FRENCH ADMINISTRATION

(Circulated in accordance with rule 85 and supplementary rule F of the  
rules of procedure for the Trusteeship Council)

Ex-Servicemen of the R.W.A.F.F.  
resident at New-Bell Bassa  
Douala (c/o Box 492, Douala)

Douala, 6 December 1954

To the Chairman of the Fourth Committee  
of the United Nations General Assembly,  
New York

No. A/letter

Subject: PETITIONS

Sir,

We, ex-servicemen of the Royal West Africa Frontier Force, meeting in  
general assembly at our usual headquarters on 29 November 1954,

Having considered the current situation and the present policy of the  
Administering Authorities in the Cameroons, we see that we can expect no  
satisfaction of the claims we have been pressing since our demobilization in  
1946. We are always hearing about the sums of money granted to ex-servicemen  
of the R.W.A.F.F. and the F.F.L., but we have received nothing so far. Even  
when we're simply looking for a job, the fact of being an "ex-serviceman"  
seems to be the greatest crime in the world. Here we are obliged to pay  
500 frs. for membership in the ex-servicemen's association in order to try to  
get work and even then we don't get it.

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Taxes are being increased, for us just as for the civilians, and the French Administration is constantly sending us to the British zone, while the British Administration sends us back to the French zone, and so on. And yet when FRANCE and ENGLAND were in need of help, a great regiment rose to defend them; FRANCE and ENGLAND were saved. They took advantage of these exploits to maintain the division of our country. In fine, the Cameroonians have served the two Administering Authorities well. The Cameroons sacrificed her sons to rescue FRANCE and ENGLAND but the two Administering Authorities have forgotten the sacrifice. The people of our country are crushed beneath the burden of oppression and tyranny; we strongly protest against such abuses and restrictions and we want prompt REUNIFICATION OF THE CAMEROONS and a date fixed for the granting of independence to our country.

Day after day we appeal to the United Nations to realize the plight of the ex-servicemen and to remedy it so that we may live free from want.

If the true facts were taken into account, we should have thought that France and England would be the first of the Member States to be grateful to us and would not only satisfy the legitimate claims we have placed before the United Nations but would recognize our country's right to self-determination.

We hope that our request will receive favourable consideration.

We have the honour to be, etc.

Ex-servicemen

(Signed) A. Gabrielsud

(The following page gives a  
list of 32 signatures)

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