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PETITION FROM THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE "UNION DES  
POPULATIONS DU CAMEROUN" OF BABETE CONCERNING THE  
CAMEROONS UNDER FRENCH ADMINISTRATION

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

UNION DES POPULATIONS DU CAMEROUN  
Cameroonian Branch, Rassemblement Démocratique Africain  
Central Committee of BABETE 1/ P.O. Box No. 4

SUBJECT: Petition

The Chairman  
Fourth Committee of the United Nations General Assembly  
New York

Sir,

We have the honour to send you this petition in order to inform you of the  
state of affairs maintained by the French Government in our country.

As a result of our country's struggle for independence Roland PRE, the  
Colonial Governor, the tool of the reactionary French Government, unleashed a  
real war against our people in May of this year. To save his face with the  
forthcoming Visiting Mission he is setting up a series of parties, whose real aim  
is merely to divert the Cameroonians from their national aspirations, immediate  
reunification and independence of the Cameroons. The war in May was not enough  
for the criminals; they are still massing troops in the principal regions of the  
Territory in order "to intimidate the people on the day of the United Nations  
Mission's arrival" and, if need by, "to resort to violence". All day long rifles  
are being issued to certain Chiefs - conformists of course - with the aim of  
provoking the people on the day of the Visiting Mission's arrival. This applies  
to the Chief of the Batcham groupment.

1/ Note by the Secretariat: This communication was despatched from Bamenda,  
Cameroons under British Administration.

The Cameroonian people considers that it would be impossible to conduct a referendum objectively under such conditions of terror. We therefore beg you to secure from the delegation of the French Government minimum guarantees for the successful conduct of the Mission's work, including:

liberation of all political prisoners;

cessation of judicial proceedings against the leaders, responsible officials and active members of democratic organizations in the Cameroons;

withdrawal of the troops who are swarming over the Territory;

payment of compensation for theft, fire and looting.

We consider that the Visiting Mission can conduct the necessary consultations objectively only if this is done.

In the hope that our petition will receive consideration we have the honour to be, etc.

(Signed): DJETE Prosper,  
Chairman,  
For the Officers of the  
Central Committee of BABETE  
BABETE, 30 September 1955

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