

UNITED NATIONS  
TRUSTEESHIP  
COUNCIL



Distr.  
GENERAL

T/PET.5/805  
17 October 1955  
ENGLISH  
ORIGINAL: FRENCH

PETITION FROM MR. KEMAGNI SADRACK CONCERNING THE CAMEROONS  
UNDER FRENCH ADMINISTRATION

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LETTER TELEGRAM

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The Secretary-General of the United Nations  
New York

Herewith succinct account of biased policy applied in Cameroons  
by High Commissioner Roland Pré

- I. Concentration of UPC leaders at Douala as soon as he arrived in the Cameroons.
- II. Visit to Bamiléké Region, North Cameroons, to restore to the traditional and hereditary chiefs the feudal power they had in ancient times; with advice not to follow youth movements which call for independence.
- III. Lowering of the price of Cameroonian products on the pretext that the UPC is urging the independence of the Cameroons.
- IV. Legal proceedings against UPC and JDC leaders, press campaigns, banning.
- V. Repeated searches of UPC office, ransacking of leaders' homes.
- VI. Police repression, dispersal by armed force of UPC meetings on private premises, arrests in public places on various pretexts.
- VII. Corruption of chiefs and officials with high-sounding promises of medals, licences to sell alcoholic drinks, permits to purchase fire-arms.

1/ Note by the Secretariat: This communication was sent from Paris, France.

- VIII. UPC legal actions dismissed at the whim of the examining magistrate, who is a creature of the régime, so that grounds may finally be discovered for accusing the UPC.
- IX. Formation of troops of mercenaries, with assurance of administrative immunity, finance, support of armed forces, including the Bafoussam troop known as the RPC, under the leadership of Mochemi André and Niécheu Jean, assistant clerk of the Bafoussam court; this troop was congratulated by High Commissioner Roland Pré in the Cameroonian press of 5 and 6 May after the violence at Bafoussam, when it first went into action.
- X. Foster African opposition by opposing determined and energetic persons to the UPC; see the series of disturbances at MEGANGA, MAROUA, MBANGA. Violence and attempts on the lives of UPC leaders, boundless provocation by cat's-paws of the administration.
- XI. Make life impossible for UPC members: looting, wide-spread destruction, five-fold taxes for UPC members; finally, in order to force them to shut up shop, refusal of transport permits to progressives owning motor vehicles.
- XII. Transfer of officials: arbitrary assignments, threats of no promotion, dismissals for their political views. According to them officials are not supposed to have any politics.
- XIII. Increase in the number of police stations, when children have no schools and the sick no hospitals.
- XIV. Illegal arrests of leaders, issue of warrants for their arrest without justification as they know that without the leaders the population will be intimidated and it will be possible to stuff the Mission with baseless lies and use cat's-paws to talk nonsense to the Visiting Mission, which should sound public opinion on their country's problem.
- XV. Amalgamation of puppet parties which exist only on paper to form a band of cut-throats called the "Front national".
- XVI. War: when he ran out of legal arguments and saw that he was isolated from the people, who do not accept a policy of bloodshed, High Commissioner Roland Pré unleashed a filthy war in the Cameroons. On 23 and 24 May, military aircraft kept on arriving from French Equatorial Africa and

on 25 May, they began the butchery. On the ground and from the air showers of bullets fell upon unarmed and innocent victims, who were killed by thousands.

- XVII. Mass arrests and deportations of Cameroonians.
- XVIII. Postal repression: the post office and radio stations hold up all the incoming and outgoing communications of the Cameroonian progressive movements. Rail and road traffic interrupted for a whole week.
- XIX. A scandal when the Cameroons are living in grief and terror, the question of buying Douala airport has been raised again, in the form of a ninety-year lease. Everyone knows that this is the gateway by which people enter and leave our country and we refuse to agree to the gateway to our country being sold or leased to anyone, and no one can sell it or lease it as he pleases.
- XX. Expulsion of many students from the schools in the Territory on the pretext that "They are mixed up in politics". Intimidation, threats, terror on every side.

So much injustice in the Cameroons ...

The Cameroonian people ask only for the UNIFICATION and INDEPENDENCE of their country, in accordance with the United Nations Charter, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the Trusteeship Agreements.

The United Nations Charter is being trampled underfoot and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights crumpled up.

Let international justice make itself heard.

The Cameroonian people therefore call upon the United Nations to establish a permanent United Nations commission in the Cameroons to end the present unstable situation in the Territory.

Douala, 30 June 1955

(Signed)

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c/o P.O. Box 93<sup>1</sup>/  
New-Bell, Douala

Douala, 6 July 1955

The Secretary-General of the United Nations  
New York

Sir,

In the present letter, I am taking the liberty of informing the United Nations of the following facts:

Since the arrival of High Commissioner Roland Pré, at the beginning of this year, the Cameroons has been living through an unparalleled period of ferocity. It is well known that, as soon as he was appointed High Commissioner of the Cameroons, Roland Pré swore to chop off the head of the Union des populations du Cameroun (Cameroonian People's Union); that is why he is so busy dashing round on his own all over the Cameroons to corrupt chiefs and persons who are tempted by money, medals or motor cars: see how the chiefs become tyrants, according to instructions and with the assurance of administrative immunity; the chiefs are authorized to act tyrannically towards UPC members; what legal remedy is there against such a chief? He is sure of support from the Administration; all he has to do is to go to a colonial law court and say behind the scenes, "My oponent is a member of the UPC", and the statement is considered clear and enough for the person to be accused.

Instead of reviving love among the Cameroonian people, Roland Pré's government stifles love and kindles hatred.

Troops of mercenaries are being formed everywhere with the assurance of administrative immunity, finance, armed support and lorries as a means of transport at their disposal... The RPC troop at Bafoussam, which was responsible for the violent incidents there on 24 April; as in war-time, this troop carried out wide-spread destruction in the Bafoussam Subdivision and then went off by lorry to do the same work of wide-spread destruction in the Bafang Subdivision.

To sum up, the French Government is fighting desperately against the unification and independence of our country; because the UPC is demanding the

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<sup>1</sup>/Note by the Secretariat: This communication was sent from Paris, France.

immediate unification and independence of the Cameroons, the colonialists are doing their utmost and using every possible means of facing the UPC with determined and energetic people, so that the members will find life unbearable as Hubert suggested.

That is why violent attacks have to be made on the UPC leaders; legal proceedings are taken against them, warrants for their arrest are issued illegally. Proceedings are taken against all the progressive movements in the Cameroons, merely because they are deeply attached to their country and urge its immediate unification and independence.

In 1952, when the Cameroonian people had the honour to be heard by the United Nations, through the UPC, the colonialists, hearing the phrase "unification and independence" of the Cameroons, immediately began to raise all kinds of difficulties to prevent Mr. Um Nyobe, the Cameroonian people's representative, from going to the United Nations.

As they could not stop him by raising all these difficulties, they got two big liars to oppose Mr. UM NYOBE, but they could do nothing against the truth. From that time on, the French Government used slighting remarks to decry the great Cameroonian people's movement. Everywhere you heard "they are malcontents, they are just a handful of failures, extremists, agitators, trouble-makers, and finally communists"; this, apparently is, as far as they have got. We tell the colonialists once more that the UPC, which is the people's movement in the Cameroons, is far from communist; but are the communists criminals? And what crime have they committed which comes up to the colonialists'?

As early as 24 April 1955, immediately after the publication of the joint proclamation of the progressive movements of the Cameroons concerning the immediate unification and independence of our country, which was adopted unanimously by the Cameroonian people, the terrified colonialists dropped the Hubert plan in favour of the Barnicaud plan (between the Administration and the UPC, a trial of strength is the only way).

The disturbances of 24 April 1955 at Bafoussam were followed by those at Meganga, Maroua, Mbanga, and all over the Territory, and finally there was WAR. On 23 and 24 May, military aircraft kept arriving from French Equatorial Africa, and on 25 May, there was wide-spread butchery; on the ground and from the air,

bullets were showered upon the peaceful Cameroonian people, who died by thousands on their native soil. OH "justice, an unequal combat, an army against innocent and unarmed people". Thousands are suffering from their wounds all over the Territory, hundreds of Cameroonians have been carried off by plane, no one knows where; numberless Cameroonians, who were arrested and imprisoned during this war, are groaning under frightful beatings.

Look at the pillage, the unparalleled destruction; the head office and the other offices of the UPC all over the Territory have been burned; students have been expelled in great numbers and several have even been arrested; officials have been dismissed because of their political views.

We call for the cancellation of the warrants for the arrest of the leaders of the progressive movements of the Cameroons, and the release of the patriots who have been arrested and imprisoned.

The Cameroonian people reaffirm their support of the UPC, the United Nations Charter, the universal declaration of the right of peoples to self-determination and the Trusteeship Agreements.

The Cameroonian people fully approve the content of the joint proclamation of the progressive movements of the Cameroons, advocating the immediate unification and independence of the Cameroons.

We respectfully urge that an important permanent commission of the United Nations should be immediately established in the Cameroons to constitute a provisional government and legislative bodies, and establish justice and security in the Territory of the Cameroons.

We hope that the international body will make the truth known about the situation in the Cameroons, and the complaint against the French Government lodged with the Security Council by the Cameroonian people through the UPC.

MY RESPECTS TO THE MEMBERS

(Signed)

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