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

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rules of procedure for the Trusteeship Council)

Um Nyobe Committee of the UPC

The President of the United Nations General Assembly
New York

Douala ^{1/} 21 June 1955

Sir,

I beg to submit the following for your sympathetic consideration.

Conditions in the Cameroons are such that the Administration of High Commissioner Roland Pre, in line with its plan to stamp out by armed force the movement of the Union des Populations du Cameroun, started off by the incidents of Bafoussam, Meiganga and Mbanga a week before the arrival in the Cameroons of M. Teitgen, Minister for the Colonies. Those incidents were provoked by the Administration, which had been breaking up private meetings of the UPC by force. At all those posts, the police and military had stirred up disturbances, tortured people by beating them with rifle butts, hauled some off to prison and seriously wounded others.

On Sunday 15 May 1955, on the occasion of the opening of Wouri bridge, in the presence of M. Teitgen, the police and military had decided to break up a big UPC meeting to be held at the same time as the opening of the bridge. The Cameroonian people, in their determination to go forward towards immediate unification and independence, had refused to take part in the celebration because it was a purely political manoeuvre. But on that day, the police and military

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

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were massed in front of "Les Portiques" and could not move from the spot. It is not known whether the UPC was merely fortunate or whether the Minister feared he might be blamed, for he closes his eyes when such events occur in his presence.

When, on 22 May, the Minister left, the chef de quartier Mbok Vincent called a meeting as a provocation for the purpose of continuing and intensifying the repressive measures. At that meeting, police and military disguised as civilians were present, and a bloody campaign of repression against the Cameroonian people was begun.

From 25 May, the repression reached its climax: the town of Douala was bombed by an aircraft, there was machine-gun fire everywhere, and tanks patrolled the whole town. It would be a mistake to estimate the number of dead in Douala alone at over a thousand, for the dead were buried or thrown into the water, and only the UPC which has a record of the members of its committees can check and give an accurate figure. A curfew was ordered by the High Commissioner, who had notices distributed ordering all persons, white or black, off the streets between the hours of 7 in the evening and 6.30 in the morning. Persons failing to observe the curfew would be shot without warning. That was a suitable time for the administration to set fire to the UPC office and the surrounding houses.

Repressive measures are still being enforced in Douala and throughout the Cameroons: any persons suspected of sympathizing with the UPC are being arrested and thrown into prison. The Chiefs and the commando leaders who are in the van of the forces of repression are continuing to hold meetings across the public thoroughfares with the object of assaulting passers-by. The whole of the Cameroons is living in an intolerable atmosphere of terror and insecurity. Political opponents of the Administration are continuing to be deported to Mokolo, Fort-Lamy and Ubangi without trial to serve terms ranging from 2 to 10 years.

We now come to the Babimbi case, the stage which these bloody events have reached at this writing.

Let us begin with the commercial centre of Songmbengue, which was very badly damaged. Unarmed Cameroonians were fired upon. It was forbidden to cross the Sanaga River from 26 May to 11 June 1955. The damage to Songmbengue, apart from the dead, includes looting and destruction of all the shops and pillaging and demolition of the houses. Only the few survivors can estimate the extent of their losses.

The case of Ndogmbog is quite dreadful. Ndogmbog is a large village where, on that day, a big traditional meeting of Babimbi from all parts of the country was being held. During the meeting, they were encircled by armed troops which had come from Edea. More than four thousand were killed, among them, seven eminent persons from Logkat who could easily be recognized. They were:

1. Tembten Nsougui
2. Yomkil Bile
3. Sende Binyamb
4. Tob Ngwem
5. Bindje Diko
6. Semba Nycm
7. Maemblem

That is how the repression is carried out at Songmbengue, Ndogmbog, Ngambe, Mandjab and elsewhere and the police have decided to be quartered there. That, roughly, is the situation in the Cameroons.

The Cameroonian people, at least those who survived the events of the 22nd to the 29th May, place their trust in you and beg you to hasten the immediate unification and independence of the Cameroons, and to send a mission of enquiry to investigate the losses suffered by the people who shall join us in raising the UPC flag and giving new life to our movement, which has been so weakened by the prosecution of its active members. I wish to inform you that an oil well 15 kilometres from Douala was deliberately set on fire by the colonialists because they were not capable of operating it.

We are at your disposal and we welcome your assistance to a suffering people. The prisoners of Douala, Yaounde, Nkongsamba, Ngambe, Edea, Eseka, Mbanga and the deportees of Mokolo, Fort Lamy, and Ubangi Chari cry out for help.

Our leaders who have fled to the forest fastnesses, and the women and children, their houses pillaged or destroyed, are perishing from all kinds of hardships.
