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PETITION FROM MR. ETIENNE ESSOMBA CONCERNING  
THE CAMEROONS UNDER FRENCH ADMINISTRATION

(Circulated in accordance with rule 85 and supplementary rule F of the  
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ESSOMBA Etienne  
Depot Supervisor at M'Balmayo,  
Cameroonian Railways

M'Balmayo, 4 September 1955

To the Secretary-General of the United Nations

Sir,

I have the honour respectfully to bring to your attention the highly critical situation which has prevailed in the Cameroons since the incidents of last May.

At present, the Cameroons is in the most frightful and dreadful plight under the oppression of the colonialists. I am a clerk in the central railway station at M'Balmayo. I have been tempted several times to betray my brothers believing the cause to be genuine. This was downright duplicity on the part of the colonialists.

It was recently the turn of our station-master at Douala, who was imprisoned by these miscreants, without any reason except that he was defending the general interests of the Cameroonian people; after a few days he was released. What is the reason for imprisoning such an important Cameroonian civil servant as Mr. FINES, our station-master from the Head Office?

Be that as it may, all we Cameroonians are only asking for our independence and unification. The Cameroons has lost half of its population, and almost all of the other half are confined in various prisons in the Territory. All true Cameroonians have been imprisoned since the incidents of last May, just because they want independence.

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Today, the civil servants are badly treated for the same reason and have been paid only half of their salaries.

We all protest energetically against the measures employed by the colonialists to destroy the Cameroonian race.

We protest against the mass imprisonment of the Cameroonian people.

We protest against the troops who are scattered throughout every centre in the Cameroons in order to maintain a strange sort of order, which is nothing less than a kind of savage and indescribable butchery.

We want the independence and unification of our country. We want human freedom. We want only peace, not war. We want the planters and civil servants to enjoy their work; we do not want a perpetual crisis throughout the country created by the colonialists.

We want Mr. Roland Pré to adopt different measures for the maintenance of order in the country and to refrain from a shameful war and from unjustified mass imprisonments.

We ask the United Nations to judge our case fairly and to put an end to our misery.

I have the honour to be, etc.

E.E.

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