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PEPETION FROM REFUGEES IN THE BUSH 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)

Joint petition from refugees in the bush

24 August 1955

C/o Mr. H. Youalé Juliens Charle at Tombel,  
Cameroons under British Administration

To the Secretary-General of the United Nations,  
New York.

Sir,

The Cameroons has been the theatre of historic events during the last few months. A dastardly war has been launched by the French colonialists (come, so they say, to civilize us) in those areas of our country where the population is unarmed. You can well imagine how many have fallen. People who gave of their flesh and blood to help free France from the German colonial yoke during the Second World War have been mowed down in hundreds and thousands because, true to the spirit of the United Nations and the Trusteeship Agreement, they were anxious to put an end to the colonialization of their country.

They died gloriously on the field of battle for the salvation of their hcmeland.

They died because they believed in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which establishes, in its very Preamble, that all men are born equal in rights and dignity. That being so, the weapons of war should be equal in order to find out which are the stronger among equals, and it is cowardly for civilized and armed men to make war on unarmed populations. It is a crying abuse, as even the greater reactionaries are forced to admit. Some are prosecuted because the justice of a corrupt regime, a regime of biased colonialism, does nothing but

protect criminals and slaughters the innocent. Others are imprisoned as an emergency measure because, after being arrested in their homes or on the way to work for the whiteman, and being beaten up by soldiers as under the Nazis, they have been driven, against their will, to sign blank confessions in which anything can be inserted, and which may lead to their condemnation and that of their brethren.

Since slaughter, pillage, arbitrary imprisonment and illegal prosecutions have failed to daunt a people resolved to cast off its chains, severer measures have been adopted in centres where bribery does not work. Thus, every day soldiers march through Douala and Yaoundé to intimidate the masses determined to request a hearing of the United Nations mission on the day of its arrival in order to explain what they want.

Worse than that, orders have been given to the army to practise all kinds of violence on the day the United Nations mission arrives, if the population tries to go and welcome it.

The following is a copy of a letter dated 14 August 1955.

Considering that the sole object of this manoeuvre is to stifle the legitimate demands of the Cameroonian people and prolong colonialist domination in our country;

Considering that the United Nations mission expected later in the Cameroons is to inquire into the freely expressed aspirations of the populations concerned, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and Article 76 in particular, and that these populations, under the threat of armed force, cannot freely express themselves;

ACCORDINGLY

1. We protest with the utmost vigour against the preparation of a second war in the Cameroons, a country under United Nations trusteeship, in view of the fact that the populations have no arms with which to receive these mercenaries infected with the spirit of evil.
2. We ask the United Nations to provide a bodyguard at least, to defend its mission, should the French Trusteeship colonialists seek to make a demonstration - for, to judge from their present preparations, they might attack the United Nations

mission or have it attacked by their minions. As for all Cameroonians worthy of the name, they await the United Nations mission with impatience, even though the army and the air force are prepared to set the whole Cameroons aflame once more.

3. We persist in calling for the unconditional release of our arbitrarily imprisoned brethren and the cessation, pure and simple, of their illegal prosecution so that the Cameroonian people may live in an atmosphere of peace.

4. We swear to remain loyal to the national liberation movement, the UPC, until we win immediate unity and independence for the Cameroons, and we protest against the order for its dissolution illegally promulgated by the French Council of Ministers.

In the hope that the United Nations will find a solution for the problem of the Cameroons in accordance with the wishes of its people,

We, and all true Cameroonians, have the honour to be, etc.

(Signed)<sup>1/</sup>

TCHUENTE, Joseph

TANGUEMBOU, Abraham

YOUMBI, David

KAMGA, Amos

KOUAKAM, Pierre

TAGUE, Michel

POKOU, Elie

NJOFANG, Jean

TEYANOU, Bernard

FAYEP, Pierre

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<sup>1/</sup> Note by the Secretariat: The list of 249 names and signatures has been placed in the Secretariat files and is available to members of the Trusteeship Council on request.