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PEPETION FROM THE BABIMBI-NGAMBE COMMITTEES OF THE "UNION DES POPULATIONS
DU CAMEROUN" CONCERNING THE CAMEROONS UNDER FRENCH ADMINISTRATION

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rules of procedure for the Trusteeship Council)

Hiong Etienne
Secretary
Union des Populations du Cameroun
Babimbi-Ngambe Committee
Cameroons

Babimbi^{1/}, 15 June 1955

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

Subject: Colonialist terrorism in the Cameroons.

Sir,

We regretfully have to inform you today of the colonialist terrorism
practised in the Cameroons, especially in the Babimbi Subdivision of the
Sanaga-Maritime region.

European and African police detachments have been overrunning the Babimbi
Subdivision since the beginning of June this year, firing upon UPC supporters,
wounding and killing them and destroying their houses. For example, at
Sonombengue (a commercial centre), more than fifty have been killed and numbers
arrested. The shops, dwellings and valuables of all the comrades were completely
destroyed when the colonial government seized their property. (We can cite the
case of Manjek Samuel, Sik Sik, Nlondog and many others).

At Ndogmbog, too, in the same subdivision, the reign of terror has caused a
number of deaths - we cannot say how many, for in our Subdivision the war is still

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

being waged vigorously and incessantly, even if things have become a little calmer elsewhere.

This is how Cameroonians worthy of the name are being ill-treated for supporting the just cause of national liberation. Over fifty Cameroonians are suffering at Maroua and over a hundred men from our Subdivision are imprisoned at Edéa. What misery! Come and see for yourself how they are made to work. Even if their legs and hands are broken, their heads wounded, they are dragged through the streets, beaten as they go. We need not look far for the reason; it is because the Cameroonian people sincerely approve the concrete proposals of the UPC.

What are the colonialists saying now? They say that they were only maintaining calm among Africans who threatened law and order. That may be so, but I ask whether the word "African" only denotes a person suspected of UPC allegiance. Why was there not a single African member of Esocam among all those dead, wounded or imprisoned? You must surely perceive the reason once again: the UPC is truth itself and must be struck down.

Having regard to the numerous unlawful arrests of fellow-Cameroonians struggling for the freedom of their country;

Having regard to the numerous dead, wounded and imprisoned;

Considering that it is preferable to die for one's country;

The political committee of the Union des Populations du Cameroun at Babimbi, convened in special session, vigorously protests against the present political atmosphere in the Cameroons and presses for:

1. The immediate unification and independence of the country;
2. The immediate repatriation of Mr. Roland Pré, the High Commissioner of the French Republic in the Cameroons.
3. The immediate return of all the property of our comrades still held by the Administration;
4. The release of all our comrades who are arbitrarily imprisoned;
5. The immediate reconstruction, without further ado, of all dwellings destroyed;

6. The re-establishment of the political office of the Union des Populations du Cameroun at Douala;

7. The arraignment of those who instigated the terror in the Cameroons, particularly Mr. Roland Pré, the High Commissioner.

We shall endeavour to keep you informed on the situation in the Babimbi canton, at present menaced by police detachments claiming countless victims.

If the French find the Cameroons more to their liking than their own country, as would seem to be the case, they should all come here and let the Cameroonians have France. That might remedy the present sad state of affairs.

Hoping that you will sympathize with the Cameroonians who suffer for having pursued the path of light and truth, we send you our sad greetings and ask you to give the Cameroonian question thorough study.

For the Babimbi-Ngambe Committee of the Union des Populations du Cameroun,

(Signed) J. Etienne Hiong
Secretary
