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PETITION FROM THE ASSOCIATION OF CAMEROONIAN
STUDENTS, TOULOUSE BRANCH, 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)

ASSOCIATION OF CAMEROONIAN STUDENTS
Toulouse Branch
13, Place Lafourcade
Toulouse (France)

Toulouse, 18 June 1955

To: The Secretary-General of the United Nations
Lake Success, New York

Sir,

We have the honour to inform you that we and all the youth of the Cameroons are filled with increasing anxiety.

Please read the enclosed extract from the "Canard Enchaîné" of 15 June 1955 and you will discover the reasons.

You will then realise, as we do, that there is no protection for the population under the French Administration of the Cameroons. When the Government has the population machine-gunned by the "troops", just as if France were at war with the Cameroonian population, the representative of Justice cannot even institute an inquiry! The Chief Law Officer of the Republic himself is expelled from the Cameroons for having tried to do his duty and having "had the temerity to urge the demonstrators to be calm"

So you see what kind of crimes decent people are committing in the Cameroons, crimes for which they are being prosecuted, sentenced and killed.

We would point out to you that the fact that Mr. Roland Pré's decisions have been approved by the Minister for Overseas France show that the incidents were premeditated and perpetrated by the French Government at the time which it considered propitious.

We are becoming increasingly aware that, with France,

(1) our emancipation and our "progressive development towards self-government" will never be promoted;

(2) we are afforded no security:

the troops engage in provocation and killing just as if there was a war;

the police engage in provocation, clubbing, arrests, imprisonment and slaughter;

gangs of civilians in the pay of the Administration engage in provocation, arson and unpunished killing day and night;

the only judges tolerated on Cameroonian territory are those who proceed, not in accordance with the law, but with the status of the client; in other words, the authorities themselves are promoting disorder;

(3) No freedom of opinion or assembly will be guaranteed to us.

In fact,

The Administration is forcing the people (by means of various forms of coercion, such as beating, destruction of dwellings, etc...) to join political parties and trade unions under its influence;

The leaders of the Cameroonian nationalist party (Union des Populations Camerounaises) and of the free trade union movements are persecuted. Those who have not already been exiled go into exile voluntarily, because the atmosphere is unbearable. The free political movements are arbitrarily deprived of their civil rights.

Under these circumstances, the Cameroons cannot appeal to the French Government its connivance is too obvious. But as it is an international territory, its inhabitants have a legitimate right of appeal to the United Nations.

Will the United Nations submit to losing the great prestige which it enjoys with the peoples of the Cameroons as a result of the accurate information about it which the delegates of the UPC have given them?

Will the United Nations submit to losing this prestige, which it has acquired by its search for justice and because, in conformity with the Charter, it "dared" to take into account the "concrete proposals" of the UPC which the majority of Cameroonians will disavow only as a result of the present reign of terror?

Will the United Nations understand that if it permits the suppression of the UPC, which all Cameroonians consider a genuine organization, it will put itself into the power of France and share its responsibility for crimes, oppression and injustices of every sort?

Will the United Nations allow the Cameroons to be forced to shed the blood of its children in order to free itself from the domination of a democratic country which is behaving towards the Cameroons like a totalitarian Power?

We members of the Toulouse branch, who do not even belong to the UPC, as you might think, are petitioning the United Nations to intervene

(1) to secure for the UPC the same civil rights as any other political party; it alone will be able to explain to the population the benefit United Nations wishes to confer on it by organizing the referendum requested at the ninth session of the General Assembly.

(2) to secure full freedom of opinion for all, because without it the approaching referendum will lead the United Nations into serious error which may discredit the democratic system and sow the seeds of a certain war for which we would be the last to wish.

(3) to secure justice for the Cameroonians who are being suppressed by all possible means.

The conclusion of the period of Trusteeship should not enable France to force its friendship on us, however democratic it may be. No alliances should be made until the Cameroons has become unified and independent.

We do not yet despair. All our eyes are on the United Nations. We shall not be disappointed; nor will our relatives and friends living under the terror be disappointed, if you bestow on this petition, which supplements those already sent, all the attention it deserves.

In the hope of a favourable reply, we have the honour to be, etc.

(Signed) (for the Chairman)

NSANGCU Paul

Association of Cameroonian Students
Toulouse branch

(Seal: TOULOUSE BRANCH, ASSOCIATION
OF CAMEROONIAN STUDENTS)

EXTRACT FROM AN ARTICLE IN THE "CANARD ENCHAINE"

"ORDER, AUTHORITY, JUSTICE"

"Chief Law Officer Marinelli having ordered an inquiry into the incidents which occurred on the occasion of the demonstrations in the Cameroons - the troops fired on the crowds - Governor Roland Pré, at one fell swoop, had him placed at the disposal of the Department for Overseas France.

That will teach that half-breed law officer to meddle with things that don't concern him.

And with that he was recalled to France.

Just think! Law Officer Marinelli had the temerity, during the demonstrations to urge the demonstrators to be calm.

You see, he even managed to avoid any fatal or other casualties!

What a scandal!"

(Extract from the "Canard Enchaîné of 15 June
1955)
