

UNITED NATIONS

TRUSTEESHIP
COUNCIL



Distr.
GENERAL

T/PET.5/631
22 June 1955

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

PEITION FROM MR. ANTOINE KOUNDJI (KWANEIDZE) 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)

From Anton Kwaneidze
c/o Joseph Ngwana (Stranger Chief)

N.A. SCHOOL, NYASOSO
KUMBA

BR. CAMEROONS
NIGERIA

6.6.55

The Secretary,
U.N.O. Trusteeship Council,
Lake Success,
U.S.A.

Dear Sir,

On Tuesday 31 May 1955, the French Administering Authority of the Cameroons Trusteeship territory brought troops to our village, Lalla R.C. Mission, at Mongo Region, in Nkong-Samba and broke down my house to pieces and confiscated all my belongings on the grounds that I am a member of U.P.C. organization, which aims at Independence for the Cameroons outside the French Union. My wife and two of my younger children ran into the forest and I also escaped with my eldest son into the British Trust Territory of the Cameroons, where I am now under refuge. What has become of my wife and my two children none can tell save God. I cannot at this moment tell whether I shall ever see them again because the French Government aims at the entire extermination of all the U.P.C. members together with their families. Soldiers are let loose on the indigenes who are shot down mercilessly like wild beasts.

The French Government at the moment aims at two objectives: viz: (i) The complete annihilation of all the U.P.C. members and their families before the

arrival of the U.N.O. Visiting Mission in November this year to make a REFERENDUM to determine the wishes of the people on the subject of INDEPENDENCE and UNIFICATION of the two Cameroons. (ii) The instilling of fear and terror by indiscriminate shooting of the inhabitants so that no other political party which has as its primary objective, the attainment of independence and unification of the Cameroons will ever be formed. This will then enable the French Government to incorporate the Trust Territory of the Cameroons into the French Union, which is contrary to the provision of Article 76 of the UNO Charter which stipulates independence or self-government for all Trust Territories.

The French Government attains its diabolical designs by the following stratagems: (a) Prominent U.P.C. members are shot down mercilessly in the open air (b) Some of the U.P.C. members are sent on exile to unknown places. (c) Many "quislings" are given 10,000 francs each to point out the houses of U.P.C. members, which are immediately set on fire and the occupants destroyed wholesale. (d) Many U.P.C. secretaries have either been shot or banished from their homes to unknown places. Whether they are killed or banishment none can tell. (e) Important chiefs have been arrested and banished for refusing to accept money in order to locate the dwellings of U.P.C. members.

The atrocities exercised by the French Government on the indigenous inhabitants is beyond human imagination. Imagine the "Reign of Terror and the Guillotine" in France during the French revolution of 1789; imagine the inhumanity committed by Hitler on the Jews and the inhabitants of occupied Europe during the Second World War, and then imagine the French ruthlessness in quelling any revolt in any of her colonial territories. It is no exaggeration to state that the situation in the French Cameroons today is worse than any of these tragedies that have ever befallen mankind.

In compliance with the provision of the UNO Charter, which allows the indigenes of a trusteeship territory the right to petition to UNO Trusteeship Council, I humbly present my case to you for prompt investigation and redress. In particular I wish the investigations to be made on the following points:

- (a) The whereabouts of my wife and her two children. (b) The restoration of my house and my belongings a list of which is attached herewith. (c) The

possibility of my returning to my homeland to rejoin my family as I am now a refugee in the British Trust Cameroons. My plight can be better imagined than expressed. (c) The political tension together with the general lawlessness and the ruthlessness with which the French Administering Authority handles the situation is one which calls for immediate intervention and positive action by the UNO Security Council. Failing this, the state of affairs in the French Cameroons may either develop into another "Mau Mau" in Kenya, or plunge the world into a Third World War, which I believe, neither the French nation nor any civilized nation is prepared to welcome in this age of Atomic and Hydrogen bombs. It would certainly mean the end of Civilization which God Forbid!

May Long live the UNO!

(Signed) ANTOINE KOUNDJI

A list of my belongings confiscated by the French Government
on 31 May 1955

1. 1 big cupboard containing the following: (a) 28,000 francs; (b) 12 enamel plates (c) 22 tumblers (d) 2 doz. spoons (e) 1 doz. forks (f) 8 shirts (g) 4 long trousers of flannel, black, gabardine, and khaki (h) 2 knickers (i) 1 black jacket (l) 1 blue jacket (m) 2 pairs of shoes (n) 1 helmet (o) 2 ties. 7 (p) 1 small cupboard containing my wife's articles which I do not know. (q) 2 portmanteaux (r) 1 trunk containing my native garments; (s) (t) 4 iron pots (u) 2 buckets (v) 2 big basins (w) 25 small basins (x) 1 tilley lamp; (y) 2 bush lights (z) 4 plank beds; (i) 5 cushion chairs (ii) 8 table chairs (iii) 1 large mirror (iv) 6 fowls (v) 1 pay book for my labourers.

2. Three of my workmen by name Michael Nkemagi, Siayin Etien, Njemayi Joseph also escaped and cannot give an estimate of their properties.

My eldest son's books - a list is attached.

I cannot also give an account of my wife's belongings and her two children's own.

My house was built of plank walls and zinc roof; the dimensions were 50 x 24 sq.ft.

I am by trade a planter of cocoa, coffee and bananas. I am able to produce 1 1/2 tons coffee p.a. 1 ton cocoa p.a. and I realize 60,000 frs. from bananas annually.

I engage 10 Labourers, 3 of whom stay with me in my house, and 7 stay elsewhere and attend work daily.

The above data are included to enable you to determine my status in our community.

P/S 2 pairs of rain boots.

Géographie	- 500 FRS.
Lecture	- 130 FRS.
Langue Français	- 130 FRS.
Science	- 100 FRS.
Tareissien Romain	- 400 FRS.
Carte scolaire	- 500 FRS.
6 cahiers	- 60 FRS.
Histoire	- 75 FRS.
Total	1895 FRS.

JEAN DEUGANG C.M.I.

The above is my son's list of articles confiscated.
