

UNITED NATIONS
TRUSTEESHIP
COUNCIL



Distr.
GENERAL

T/PET.5/589
16 May 1955
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: FRENCH

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

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DOUALA, 27 April 1955

The Secretary-General of the United Nations,
New York (USA)

Sir:

Once again I take the liberty of sending you a petition concerning the violent policy of sanguinary repression being carried out in the Cameroons. That policy has been intensified by the French Governor, Roland PRE, who cannot forgive our people for proclaiming their patriotism with more and more determination each day. Governor Roland PRE has become an expert in repressive measures, which he organizes or instigates during his many spectacular tours.

On Sunday, 24 April 1955, a large delegation went to Bafoussam from DOUALA to organize a meeting to lend solemnity to the ceremony of raising the United Nations flag. That flag had been damaged on 8 April by a band of hirelings acting for the colonialists, who are doing everything in their power to prevent the indigenous inhabitants from realizing that their country is under the International Trusteeship System. These same hirelings, who tore down the United Nations flag on 8 April and tried to kill our comrades, Ruben UM NYOBE and Abel KINGUE, at MBOUDA, returned to the charge and, this time, simply stole the international organization's emblem. From the protection which they are enjoying in the town, it is not hard to guess to whom they proudly delivered the booty. This time, there are several signs in favour of the Cameroonian people, who do not think that the Administration would have

55-13445

a free hand in fabricating such provocative incidents. The operations were directed by an official (clerk of the court), NINTCHEU Jean-Baptiste, whose close relations with those in administrative circles are well known. The leaders were cruelly beaten and their huts were destroyed and looted. This sanguinary incident left eighteen wounded. Five persons had been wounded the day before at Meiganga, during similar incidents. And in Meiganga, as in Bafoussam, Roland PRE had held secret meetings with his confederates - undoubtedly to give them further instructions. No time was lost in putting pressure on the postal employees in BAFOUSSAM and when our comrades tried to send telegrams of protest to DOUALA and the United Nations, they were politely told: "The lines are out of order". Hastening to exploit these events, Radio-presse alleged that these incidents at Bafoussam had taken place because "the Bamilékéés are opposed to the UPC". It was for that purpose that they tried to stir up strife among the Africans. But the Cameroonian people can no longer be deceived.

At Douala, the headquarters of the UPC and the homes of the leaders were searched on 19 and 26 April, in extremely illegal circumstances. Need we add that the searches were carried out in the presence of a large band of soldiers armed to the teeth!!! That is the atmosphere in which the Cameroonian people are living, but they will pursue their dogged struggle for their country's immediate UNIFICATION and INDEPENDENCE, for that is the only way they can rid themselves of a régime of misery, looting and cruel repression.

And that is why the Cameroonian people, who welcome the resolutions adopted at the BANDUNG Conference in support of the colonial and dependent countries, remain convinced that the United Nations will give serious attention to their struggle and their protests against the Trusteeship Council's extravagant praise of the French Government, which seems to find in that praise an encouragement for its backward policy. The Cameroonian people draw the attention of the United Nations to the fact that it will be assured of receiving accurate information and of acting in the higher interests of the indigenous people if it appoints to the next Visiting Mission only objective representatives, not representatives who, in a spirit of kinship with the Colonial Powers, would

come to the Territory merely to extol the Government's repressive policy, paying but slight attention to the freely expressed wishes of the Cameroonian patriots. For blood was spilled in Bafoussam because, above all, we wanted to tell our fellow citizens that the United Nations was adopting resolutions in support of the inhabitants of the Trust Territories. There would be great disappointment if the next Visiting Mission did not heed our protests but chose instead to follow in the footsteps of those who in 1952 took a clearly pro-colonialist position.

I have the honour to be etc.

(Signed) NJOUNKAM Etienne
P.O. Box No. 455,
Douala, Cameroons.
