



# UNITED NATIONS TRUSTEESHIP COUNCIL



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## PETITION FROM THE CAMEROONIANS OF THE NEW-BELL QUARTER, DOUALA 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)

### COPY OF A HANDWRITTEN LETTER

### RESOLUTION

Cameroonian men and women of the New-Bell Douala quarter, numbering 2,000 persons, meeting on this third day of June 1955, at the request of the local Committee of the UPC at New-Bell Bas-fond, having reviewed the precarious state of affairs brought about by Mr. Roland Pré, Colonial Governor, High Commissioner of the French Republic for the Cameroons, who is carrying on a policy of savage oppression throughout the Cameroons, from Meiganga to Bafoussam, Bafang, Nkongsamba, Manjo, Loum, Penja, Njombé, Mombo, Mganga and Douala, via Yaoundé, Ngambé, where more than 1,500 huts have been destroyed and looted since 24 April, reducing many families to poverty, and where Cameroonian blood has flowed as a result of last week's shooting;

Considering that the official communiqué issued on Wednesday, 1 June 1955, reports that the shooting resulted in ten deaths at Douala, four in the Mungo region, four at Yaoundé, and more than seventy wounded; considering that this communiqué does not tally with the actual facts, since, unknown to the parents, several corpses were stolen and buried by the fire brigade, that this communiqué omitted to inform the public that the wounded admitted to hospital are surrounded

even in the ward by armed forces and that a number of the less severely wounded and those who have recovered have already been sentenced to two years' imprisonment without a trial and deported forthwith by air to the Northern Cameroons;

Considering that, on the morning of 26 May, after the shooting on 25 May, armed forces seized the U.P.C. headquarters, several shots being fired in the office itself, which resulted in two persons being killed and several wounded; that during the night of 27/28 May, although the curfew was in force at night and no one was allowed to go out, the U.P.C. building and approximately thirty near-by huts were set on fire;

Considering that by having recourse to shooting and machine-gunning, which caused the death of eighteen persons and left several hundred wounded at Nkongsamba, Loum, Manjo, Njambé, Mbanga, Douala, Mombo, Ngambé and Yaoundé, throughout the territory of the Cameroons under United Nations trusteeship, the administration of Roland Pré, the Colonial Governor, claims that it is maintaining order - which was not maintained at Foumban on 25 March, nor at Bouroukou on 12 December 1953, nor at Bansa, Douala and Maroua in 1954, nor at Meiganga and Pafoussam on 23 and 24 April last, when huts were destroyed and looted by African opponents, as was briefly described in the letter of Hubert de Sangue-Lima, Colonial Administrator;

Considering that by using firearms in this country, which is not a French colony, the French Administration has openly violated the principles of the United Nations Charter and the Trusteeship Agreements; considering that by permitting Roland Pré to invoke Orders to prevent the despatch of our telegrams to the Secretary-General of the United Nations, as the attached note proves, the French Government shows the Cameroonian peoples that the United Nations has nothing to do with the government of the Cameroons;

Therefore, Cameroonian men and women meeting this day approve the Joint Proclamation of 22 April 1955 and the national emblem adopted by the Cameroonian people;

Strongly denounce the French Government's attitude in its policy of savage oppression in the Cameroons, repudiates all petitions submitted this day by certain customary chiefs - who do not even represent their wives at home - in

order to declare their so-called trust in the French Government, and request the United Nations to ignore such petitions prepared by Administrative circles;

Strongly protest against the arrest of the leaders of the National Cameroonian movement in the regions of Mungo, Douala, Sanaga Maritime and Yaoundé and against the punishment inflicted on Cameroonian patriots and request the urgent intervention of the United Nations for the immediate release of the arrested persons and the outright cancellation of the proceedings instituted against the leaders of the U.P.C.

Vehemently denounce certain newspapers, such as "Le Cameroun libre" and "La Presse du Cameroun", which already accuse the United Nations of having taken over their duties towards the Cameroons and malevolently wish for the dissolution of the national Cameroonian movement;

Request the United Nations to assume its responsibilities under Article 76 of the Charter and to declare the period of trusteeship ended, despite the Administering Power's desire to keep us under this reign of misery forever; urge the United Nations to send a commission of inquiry to the Cameroons forthwith in order to put an end to a system which is condemned by the right of peoples to self-determination.

We ask for the declaration of our national independence, which is the sole remedy for our ills.

Long live the United Nations!

Long live the right of peoples to self-determination!

Long live the unity and independence of the Cameroons!

(Signed) KOUAN

Chairman

Done at Douala, 3 June 1955

(Signed) Chrétien Dzukam

Secretary of the meeting

COPY

DIRECTORATE OF POSTS AND TELECOMMUNICATION  
OF THE CAMERCONS

Reimbursement slip for  
telegraphic charges (I).

No. 484/ETI

In pursuance of article 3 of the Order of 20 October 1926, the radiotelegrams numbered 45 and 26, handed in at the Douala R P office on 25/5/1955, for which a total sum of 5,251 francs was charged, have not been despatched.

I request you to hold at the disposition of Mr. MOUMIE, Chairman of the U.P.C., Post Office Box 345, residing at Douala, the sender of the above-mentioned radiotelegrams, the sum of 5,251 francs, representing the cost of such telegrams, for a period of six months from today's date.

DOUALA, 31 May 1955

For the Director

MERCIER

Chief Inspector

Head of the Telecommunication Service.

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