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PETITION FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF THE "UNION DES POPULATIONS DU CAMEROUN"
CONCERNING THE CAMEROONS UNDER FRENCH ADMINISTRATION

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rules of procedure for the Trusteeship Council)

UNION DES POPULATIONS DU CAMEROUN

Cameroonian Branch of the Rassemblement Democratique Africain

Office of the Executive Committee

P.O. Box 435

DOUALA

No. 0207 UPC/BCD

Douala, 17 March 1955

Subject: Intensified persecution
of Cameroonian independence
movements by the judicial authorities

The Secretary-General of the United Nations,
New York

Sir,

As the persecution of national independence movements by Mr. Roland PRE, the Colonial Governor and the new French High Commissioner in the Cameroons, is becoming more intense, we are taking the liberty of protesting once again to the United Nations concerning this serious situation and the atmosphere of insecurity hanging over the heads of those citizens who are fighting for the ideals proclaimed in the United Nations Charter and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

The atmosphere fostered in the Cameroons by the Government of Mr. Roland PRE is a deliberate attack on the freedom of the individual and is consequently calculated to impede the progress of the Cameroons towards independence. This

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persecution by the judicial authorities is directed against the leaders of the Union des Populations du Cameroun and the Jeunesse Democratique du Cameroun, the only two movements which were given hearings by the Fourth Committee at the ninth session of the United Nations General Assembly in New York. Thus, in order to forestall a report on the work of the Fourth Committee in 1954, the Administration of Mr. Roland PRE is instituting proceedings against the Political Bureau of the Union des Populations du Cameroun and the Executive Committee of the Jeunesse Democratique du Cameroun, proceedings affecting *inter alia* the General Secretary of the Union des Populations du Cameroun, the people's delegate Ruben UM NYOBE, and KINGUE Abel, spokesman for the Jeunesse Democratique du Cameroun before the Fourth Committee during the last session of the United Nations General Assembly. It should be noted, moreover, that this is the period just before the elections and before the arrival of the United Nations 1955 Visiting Mission.

In view of the Cameroonian people's awakened determination to go forward towards unity and national independence, the Administering Authority is very apprehensive about these approaching events.

So much so that when, on 5 March 1955, a crowd of over 60,000 people, despite police intimidation in the presence of Mr. Roland PRE, gathered in a dignified, enthusiastic and orderly way to welcome UM NYOBE, the people's delegate, upon his return to the Territory, the latter was greeted, as he stepped off the plane, by a summons ordering him to appear before Mr. Georges CAU, the Examining Magistrate. It will be understood from the fact that the home address of Mr. Ruben UM NYOBE is well known to the authorities and up to that point no summons to appear before the Magistrate had been sent to him that the summons addressed to the General Secretary of the UPC was served in rather unusual circumstances. It should be added, however, that in similar circumstances, before he left the Cameroons for the United Nations, Mr. KINGUE Abel, the delegate of the Jeunesse Democratique du Cameroun, was also served with a summons to appear before the French Examining Magistrate at Dschang, likewise on a matter of which KINGUE had no knowledge. We are now being subjected to the

abusive practices of the French Examining Magistrates, who summon people either "in connexion with a matter concerning them" or "as witnesses" or on a rogatory commission, and it is a known fact that in French law the defendant has no right to counsel in such cases. These practices reveal a violation of the individual's freedom to defend himself, proclaimed by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and guaranteed by law.

Thus, from the exceptional measures taken against those who do not agree with the policy that opposes unity and the national independence of the Cameroons, any honest man can see that the French Government wishes not only to deprive the people of any information on the objectives of the International Trusteeship System, but also, and above all, to deprive the movements fighting for independence of leadership by passing sentence on their leaders, in particular UM NYOBE and KINGUE Abel, prior to the elections, so that they will not be eligible to vote or stand for office.

When the United Nations Visiting Mission, which we are impatiently awaiting, arrives here, the Administering Authority hopes by these methods to be able to eliminate the people's leaders, and when the elections are held to deprive the people of their candidates by so-called "judicial" decisions.

That is the unavowed purpose of the tyrannical measures taken against the Union des Populations du Cameroun and the Jeunesse Democratique du Cameroun by the Government of Mr. Roland FRE.

The great majority of the Cameroonian people protest against these proceedings; their political nature and their purpose, although unavowed, are no longer a secret.

We therefore appeal to the United Nations in the face of a situation which threatens individual freedom and restricts the rights of national independence movements in the Trust Territory of the Cameroons.

It is high time that the United Nations took resolute action in this atmosphere of insecurity.

We have the honour to be, etc.

For the Political Bureau of the Union des Populations du Cameroun

The Chairman,

(Signed) ... (illegible)

Felix-Roland MOUMIE
