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PETITION FROM MRS. ANNE LANGUE 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)

The African woman Anne Langue, a dealer, mother of six children,
widow of the late Leuton Augustin, former dealer, resident at
MANJO station, Mungo Region (Cameroons under French Administration):

Subject: Petition

The Secretary-General,
United Nations, New York

Sir,

With the greatest respect I submit for your august attention the following
facts:

Since my husband's death I have been a dealer; this is my only source of
income for the upkeep of the six orphans for whom I bear sole responsibility.
Everyone knows what difficulties mothers of several children have to face.

On 26 March 1955, while I was looking after my children, my clerk, who
assists me in the sale of merchandise, left the licence behind at the house, which
is more than a kilometre from the market. Despite the clerk's explanations,
the police superintendent, who had come from Nkongsamba, arbitrarily impounded
my goods and took them to Nkongsamba. Ever since I have been a dealer I have
never failed to buy a licence each year. The only excuse the aforementioned
police officer gave for taking away my goods was that the carrier had no
licence.

What does citizenship mean? Why was my clerk taken to Nkongsamba? This shows the racial discrimination existing in the Cameroons. What is to become of my children? Will the number of days for which my goods were impounded be taken into account? If I had been a white woman, would not the State have helped me to support my six children?

I hold licence No. 465 for 1954. The licence for 1955 is not yet paid, whatever it may be.

I would ask you to intercede for me with the Administering Authority for the Cameroons; so that my goods may be returned to me.

I would also ask you to intervene with the French Government in the Camercons to ensure that the provisions of the Charter and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights are respected.

In the hope of a favourable outcome to my complaint I have the honour to be, etc.

Manjo, 4 April 1955

(Signed) A. LANGUE
