

UNITED NATIONS  
TRUSTEESHIP  
COUNCIL



Distr.  
GENERAL

T/PET.5/1124  
21 February 1957  
ENGLISH  
ORIGINAL: FRENCH

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PETITION FROM MR. GABRIEL HANLOG CONCERNING THE  
CAMEROONS UNDER FRENCH ADMINISTRATION

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Hanlog, Gabriel  
Pioneer of the St-Antoine Pilot Village  
P.O. Box 93, Edéa

To the Secretary-General of the United Nations, New York

Sir,

On 28 December 1956, ten special envoys of the UPC tried to surround my home while I was there in order to carry me off to their brigands' camp which they set up long ago, and kill me. Their purpose was to force me to leave the JOC and become a member of the UPC. Fortunately, I managed to escape, thanks to the arrival of another member of the JOC, who had come to pay me a visit. On the following day they came to look for me again but did not find me because I had gone to the mission. I returned home on the 30th and, at about 9 o'clock in the evening, while I was in the sitting-room with my family, I heard four people shouting in the Yaoundé language: "Why do you hurt us, Why do you want to kill us, Bassa." At this shout, my family and I thought we had better go out of the house and we were pursued by a band of more than 400 people, armed with machetes, lances, sticks, spears etc.

Having hidden myself behind a clump of rushes 100 metres from my hut, I heard their leader tell his band to surround my hut and make sure that none of my family escaped. After this order they attacked my hut, looted my belongings and clubbed my aged mother to death and threw her into the Sanaga. Then they destroyed my hut (see attached photograph of my hut).<sup>1/</sup> The property I have lost is valued at

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<sup>1/</sup> Note by the Secretariat: The photograph referred to has been placed in the Secretariat files and is available to members of the Trusteeship Council on request.

at least 110,000 francs CFA. Since the time of our ancestors such things have never happened. I wonder whether in other countries of the world independence means looting, theft and brigandage. But these people, who in any case are in the minority, do it on the pretext that it is through such acts that we shall gain independence. Politically speaking, most Cameroonians wish to develop and work peacefully in co-operation with the administering country. In all the time that we have lived with France, it has never set fire to our huts. Today our brothers, fanaticized by Un Nyobé, want to impose Communist ideas upon us by blood, pillage, violence and fire.

We cannot accept this and it is inconceivable that a minority of men fanaticized by Un Nyobé can forcibly impose its will on the mass of peaceful Cameroonians. In this connexion I beg you to give administrative instructions which will make it possible to maintain order in the country, so as to promote the prosperity of our beloved country, the Cameroons.

During the past year the crimes of the UPC threw many Cameroonian families into mourning and this year again their evil deeds are ruining the country and reducing it to total misery. We cannot allow this state of affairs to continue, and, if the United Nations and France do nothing to stop this UPC sabotage I personally would consider them to have failed.

In the hope of a favourable reply, I have the honour to be etc.

(Signed) Gabriel Hanlog

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