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PETITION FROM MR. JOSEPH YERIMA TAGNE CONCERNING  
THE CAMEROONS UNDER FRENCH ADMINISTRATION

(Circulated in accordance with rule 85 of the rules of  
procedure of the Trusteeship Council.)

Petition and report to the United Nations

To the President of the General Assembly of the United Nations.

In my petition I give a statement of my situation. I was born on 18 May 1915 and thus passed my infancy during the 1914-18 war. At the age of 12, about 1927, I was sent to school by my father, Léèche Takamgoum, then residing in Bamungoum village. After ten years of schooling, up to the middle course, first year at Doungué French Protestant Mission we learnt the geography of Kamerun before the arrival of the Germans in our country.

At first, our ancestors in Kamerunian ports such as Douala in the country where our ancestors ruled, bought salt and clothing from European agents, the so-called Romans who were led by Mr. Alfred Sakert, the first missionary in the Protestant Mission, who was an Englishman, about 1846. They imported a great many things and were the only ones to export to Europe. These were the first Europeans in Kamerun before the arrival of the Germans. And now we Kamerunians are greatly surprised to see our country divided into different parts, one English and the other French. This is since the Germany rule in Kamerun from the beginning of 1884 to the end of 1918. Differently from the English and the French, during the 1914 war there was only one High Commissioner in our country, Kamerun. Now the French have already forgotten their first promise in 1918 to teach the professions in our country, Kamerun. Now that we are asking for our unification and independence they have forced upon us the loi-cadre and internal autonomy; as a result, on 8 August 1956, all the Kamerunians met at Douala; they agreed not to vote and that they would never vote in Kamerun until the unification and independence of Kamerun are achieved. Blood has been flowing everywhere in our country since 25 May 1955 until today in 1956.

On 10 June 1956 at Bamungoum village, in the public market, there was a disturbance involving Mr. Bacon Pierre, who insulted the village chief saying: You old man who will not die, if you open your dirty mouth again you will be put to death; this was because the chief had asked him why he had come to the market without giving notice because he had just heard that the troops in the military squadron had upset all the goods of the dealers and had even shed the blood of their compatriots, some of whom fell dead while others were arrested.

Woe to us, the poorest people in the world who never have anything; spears, machetes or razor blades, etc.

Again on 12 October 1956, the mayor, the representative of Mr. Bacon Pierre of the Bafoussam Subdivision, organized yet another troop accompanied by two non-commissioned officers, and went to arrest some young men during their dancing. Nine if not ten were killed, two with the following names: Feugang Jakob, and Pongswok, the following day, 13 October 1956, in the same village, the so-called Bamungoum Bafoussam.

The President of the General Assembly of the United Nations:

During your session at the United Nations,

Think of us kindly and send us a High Commissioner for the immediate unification and independence of Kamerun.

Poor Tagné Yerima Joseph. In the Maquis, Douala,

(Signed) Illegible

Done at Douala<sup>1/</sup>, 24 October 1956.

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1/ Note by the Secretariat: This Communication was sent from Kumba, Cameroons under British administration.