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PETITION FROM Mr. SIMON BIKAY CONCERNING THE
CAMEROONS UNDER FRENCH ADMINISTRATION

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To the United Nations diplomats

Gentlemen,

I have the honour to approach your august presence to tell you of my great sufferings under the French.

I live just by the side of the rotten road of the French; I am married and have no children; when I was clearing my fields, I cut down a certain corner of bush; in my ignorance, I cut down a forest tree; for this, the French threw me into prison for three months and fined me 6,000 francs, saying that they had marked out our forests in Kamerun; my wife and my old mother were left at home in poverty with no one to protect them. Rotten road: it is a terrible road on which French cars transport timber that our enemies steal from our splendid forests, which our ancestors handed down to us as our heritage. They deceive us by marking out these muddy tracks, like the trails of animals; I live far away from any hospitals, schools or regular markets and yet I am obliged to pay their taxes punctually every year. There is still a lot more to say but time is slipping by. I would rather die in poverty than accept the French loi-cadre and independence.

It would comfort me to receive immediate Independence and the Unification of Kamerun.

Day and night I await the consolation of good news from you.

I have the honour to be, etc.

(Signed): illegible
Bikay Simon, living at Mboui I,
Eseka Subdivision
Ndjeng Paul Canton,
Kéllé Ndongond