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PETITION FROM Mr. ETIENNE ESSOLA CONCERNING THE
CAMEROONS UNDER FRENCH ADMINISTRATION

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Essola Etienne,
living at Mbouy I,
Edea Subdivision,
Ndjeng Paul Canton,
Kéllé Ndongond - Kamerun

To the United Nations diplomats:

Gentlemen,

I come most respectfully and politely before your august presence to complain of the trouble the French make for me, as follows:

I am now alone in the world. My father had eleven children; through ill treatment or because of the forced labour the French for in which their father participated, leaving his family alone and without protection, my late brothers died for lack of physical care; they fell like monkeys before the hunter, because they were so far from the hospitals, seventy-five or a hundred kilometres away. When I grew up and was about fifteen, my enemies forced me to pay the second category tax; as a result of these hard trials and sufferings my father became paralyzed and he can now do no work in the village to help me pay this enormous sum; we pay our taxes as soon as possible, with no reductions or presents, and if anyone is unfortunate enough to ask for such a thing or is late in paying or is unwilling, his property is searched.

Oh! United Nations diplomats, does this sort of thing often happen among you? I have not even fifty palm trees to bring me in some money. It is I who pay my father's taxes and my own; what a heavy burden it is for us little Africans. It is more than just looking after my father. I have a wife and children (three);

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destructive animals (elephants) do a great deal of damage to my small plantation here; and I cannot ask for a rifle or I shall be prosecuted; my land swarms with these wild beasts. All my family watches me as I go through these terrible sufferings. I do not want the loi-cadre or French independence. I fix my hopes on the immediate Independence of Kamerun.

I keep my lamentations for you; in the hope of a favourable reply, I have the honour to be, etc.

Your afflicted Notable
Essola Etienne

(Signed) illegible
