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PETITION FROM Mr. PAUL NANGA CONCERNING THE  
CAMEROONS UNDER FRENCH ADMINISTRATION

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

Petition from Nanga Paul,  
Sombo Village,  
Eséka Subdivision,  
Cameroons under French administration.

Eséka, 28 January 1957

To the President of the United Nations Trusteeship Council  
New York

Sir,

I respectfully address myself to you in order to place before you the following facts.

In the course of the events of 13 December 1956 I almost lost my life at the hands of the savage members of the UPC. It was only by luck that I escaped from their clutches. I have taken refuge in the bush. They have seized this opportunity to rob me of all I possessed and to burn all my huts. They then took all my cattle. They likewise stole the 50,000 francs with which I intended to complete the construction of my home.

That is why I am complaining to you that to advocate independence does not mean to kill one's brothers or one's doctors, to damage communications and to burn huts. It seems to me that they do not really care about independence but are acting out of jealousy.

Every working Cameroonian leads a normal life. It is the lazy ones who envy their brothers' lot.

I want to submit my grievances to you. I am neither a village chief nor a notable nor an official respected by the French, I am just a simple Cameroonian and that is my status.

For my part I see that we are not yet sufficiently developed to be ready for immediate independence in the Cameroons; far from it, for we have no respect for our superiors or for each other.

I appeal to you to drive out that bad idea from the hearts of all the false Cameroonians once and for all. Otherwise the Cameroonian world will come to an end. I am sure that you will listen to my plea.

I have the honour to be, etc.

Nanga Paul

(Signed) illegible

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