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PETITION FROM MR. DANIEL LONTSI CONCERNING THE CAMEROONS
UNDER FRENCH ADMINISTRATION

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

LONTSI DANIEL
P.O. Box 14 Dschang,
Cameroons under French administration.

To the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

Sir,

I have the honour to inform you of the following:

I intended to present a petition to the United Nations Visiting Mission when it was at Dschang, on my own behalf and on behalf of friends who had escaped from the massacre at Batcham in October 1957, but the Chief of the FAMILÉKÉ Region insisted that requests for hearings should go to him, and he categorically refused to arrange for me to appear before the United Nations Visiting Mission. It was a verbal refusal, accompanied by threats.

You must understand, Mr. Secretary-General, that in our Region we were prevented from having free access to the United Nations Visiting Mission.

I attach herewith:

- (a) A copy of the request for a hearing addressed to the Chief Subdivisional Officer in accordance with the public notice that was displayed.
- (b) The petition that we intended to present.

We request you to register our petition among the other petitions from the Cameroons under French administration.

I have the honour to be, etc.

Done at Dschang, 5 December 1958.

Signed on behalf of the petitioners:

LONTSI, Daniel

/...

Lontsi, Daniel, originally from Batcham, now residing at Dschang.

To the Chief of the Dschang Subdivision

Sir,

I have the honour to inform you that I wish to have an interview with the United Nations Visiting Mission on my own behalf.

In the hope that I shall be included in the list of petitioners,
I have the honour to be, etc.

Dschang, 29 November 1958

Lontsi, Daniel

Petition by refugees from Batcham, Mbouda Subdivision,
now residing at Dschang.

P.O. Box 14,
Dschang, Cameroons.

To the members of the United Nations Visiting Mission.

Sir,

We the undersigned, originally from the Batcham Group, who escaped from the massacre of October 1957 and are now living at Dschang in wretched circumstances, have the honour to submit to the consideration of the fourth United Nations Visiting Mission the special situation of our Batcham Group:

In August 1950 Mr. LONTSI Moï's, who had lawfully succeeded his father, was removed from the Chiefdom of Batcham and replaced by Mr. DJUATION Etienne, who in 1946 was sentenced to five years' imprisonment and ten years' local banishment for having stirred up civil war and thus caused several deaths.

From 1950 until now our village has been the scene of disorders. The inhabitants have been the victims of all kinds of disturbances. Thus during the events of May 1955 DJUATIO Etienne led an attack against the supporters of LONTSI Moï's; 150 huts were burnt or pillaged by DJUATION Etienne's band of aggressors. Complaints about this made to the authorities were without effect.

In 1957 the bloodthirsty Mr. DJUATIO, taking advantage of the disturbances caused by the terrorists, slaughtered about thirty people. We, the authors of the present petition, by great good luck escaped from this massacre. If the judicial authorities intended to prosecute the man responsible for this slaughter, we should have material evidence to support such a prosecution.

The local authorities are well aware of this fact, but did not think of protecting us or allowing themselves to be moved by the sufferings and complaints of women who have lost their husbands and fatherless children.

It is a bitter pill to swallow that Mr. DJUATIO is now sitting at Yaoundé as a deputy, although the fraudulent elections of December 1956 were declared void by the Disputes Board and the Conseil D'Etat.

/...

In our place of refuge there are over 600 men and women wandering homeless, and we ask ourselves the following questions:

1. Why did the Administration dismiss LONTSI Moï's from his post as Chief without justification in favour of DJUATIO, an habitual criminal?
2. Why did DJUATIO destroy, pillage and burn the concessions in May 1955 and the law took no action on the complaints made by the victim?
3. By what right does the Administration allow Mr. DJUATIO to execute his personal enemies without trial?
4. We are all members of the Kumzé Association which operates in a normal manner within the law, so what are we accused of?
5. Is it as a reward for the destruction wrought in 1955 and the massacre of 1957 that Mr. DJUATIO has been made a CHEVALIER OF THE LEGION OF HONOUR?
6. Shall we be able to return to Batcham to take possession again of our coffee plantations which we had to abandon? When? And what safeguards will have to be taken with regard to us?

Sir, in full confidence we beg you to speak for us to the United Nations so that the next General Assembly may recommend that the French and Cameroonian Governments shall give particular consideration to the question of Batcham, where there is a special situation which does not exist in other Regions in the Cameroons.

Done at Dschang, 28 November 1958.

Signed on behalf of the others:

LONTSI Daniel
DJITSOP Djilonyo
MOKEU Mayoka
KUENDONG

NJOUACHOUM
TAMBANTSA
TAYIMDJIEU
