

UNITED NATIONS  
TRUSTEESHIP  
COUNCIL



RESTRICTED

T/PET.5/R 3

4 January 1950

ENGLISH

ORIGINAL: FRENCH

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Dual Distribution

PETITION (ANONYMOUS) ENTITLED "LA VOIX DU PAYS"  
CONCERNING THE CAMEROONS UNDER FRENCH ADMINISTRATION

Note by the Secretary-General: In accordance with rule 84 of the rules of procedure for the Trusteeship Council, the Secretary-General has the honour to transmit herewith to the members of the Trusteeship Council an anonymous communication dated 25 November 1949 entitled "La Voix du Pays" concerning the Trust Territory of the Cameroons under French administration. This communication was transmitted to the Secretary-General by the United Nations Visiting Mission to Trust Territories in West Africa.

/Duala, 25 November 1949

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To the Chairman of the Visiting Mission:

We take the liberty of speaking to you of the country's administration, particularly in regard to the elections of 1945-1946.

The elections in the Cameroons were held in an atmosphere of turmoil such as never has been witnessed in any civilized country.

The administration chose the candidates and imposed them on the population. Thus, people had to vote for a Njoya or a Fouda, at the expense of excellent candidates, under threat of blows.

At Ebolowa, this was noticed by an American missionary who observed that such methods were not worthy of a civilizing nation.

At Yaundé, when the African doctor Assigui Charles protested against such cheating, the guards flung themselves upon him.

As regards the North, Governor Delavignette flew there in order to give instructions regarding the candidate to be chosen.

Any official or administrative employee who indulged in propaganda against the administrative candidates was threatened with dismissal and imprisonment.

Well, we think the Trusteeship Council would be amazed if it had the confidential file on the Cameroons for 1945-1946 before it. And that is what it should examine, to realize and ponder the fact that when the country cries out, it is with good reason. A long telegram in cipher gave all the instructions to be followed for the elections.

Well, Governors Delavignette and Nicolas have done astounding things here, and there must be no return of such people or such methods in this country.

In the hope that you will be good enough to consider this small piece of information (see the country's confidential file) as valuable, the Cameroons express their respectful and devoted sentiments.

THE VOICE OF THE COUNTRY

Received at United Nations Headquarters on 1 December 1949.

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