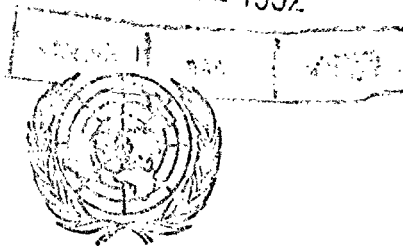


UNITED NATIONS

TRUSTEESHIP
COUNCIL

RECEIVED 29 JUL 1952

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GENERAL

T/PET.5/114

22 July 1952

ENGLISH

ORIGINAL: FRENCH

PETITION FROM THE "COMITE REGIONAL DE L'UNION DES POPULATIONS DU CAMEROUN",
FOUMBAN CONCERNING THE CAMEROONS UNDER FRENCH ADMINISTRATION

Note by the Secretary-General: In accordance with rule 85 and supplementary rule F of the rules of procedure for the Trusteeship Council, the Secretary-General has the honour to transmit to the members of the Trusteeship Council and to the Government of Italy as the Administering Authority of the Trust Territory of Somaliland, a communication dated 5 May 1952 from the "Comité régional de l'Union des populations du Cameroun", Fouban concerning the Trust Territory of the Cameroons under French administration.

Translated from French

COPY

ONTIE MOUSSA

Propaganda Secretary of the
Regional Committee of the U.P.C.
at Fouban.

Fouban, 5 May 1952

To the United Nations Trusteeship Council

I have the honour to write and thank you for the petitions you have sent me.

I wish to reply to the statement made by Mr. Watier. He says that I belong to the U.P.C.; if I am not mistaken, I told you that I belonged to the U.P.C. when I wrote to you. He says that I am spreading rumours to which the Administration objects. This is merely to silence us on the subject of any injustice which may occur; but this cannot be done.

As regards the paramount chiefs, I, Montié Moussa, repeat that they were all appointed by the French and not by the Sultan, for they did not heed considerations of tradition. In Bamoun territory there are paramount chiefs, as you say, but there are also traditional chiefs, and the latter had authority over those whom you appointed as paramount chiefs, among whom the only traditional chiefs were Njiantout and Njighet. These last, who were originally traditional chiefs, have not abused the people like the others. I wish to give you a convincing piece of evidence concerning Paramount Chief Njimogni of Koundoum. According to custom, Njimogni was nothing more than a vine-grower of the King and had no right to participate in the country's administration. The whole Bamoun population protested when France introduced this system into the territory and wanted the traditional chiefs alone to be paramount chiefs.

Since then things have not gone right in the country, for the clerk-interpreter at that time was the son of one of the paramount chiefs.

Mr. Ribert, who was the Regional Chief at that time, imposed sentence on the following Bamoun notables for rejecting that appointment:

/1. Njingoulcura

- | | | |
|-------------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Njingouloura | 17. Lah Kangam | 32. Ndiamom |
| 2. Tita MfonNdassah | 18. Mbeon Wang | 33. Bétukom |
| 4. Njimochammo | 19. Ndégué | 34. Banyiukouo |
| 5. Membanga Njalon | 20. Nji Youssah | 35. Njimombé |
| 6. Njimokem | 21. Njimbouongapna | 36. Njionouambou |
| 7. Tamhansié Ngonpayou | 22. Mounchipou | 37. Njimowamfomben |
| 8. Njory Marra | 23. Motapou Garbo | 38. Njindamngah |
| 9. Njincharro Ntoubou | 24. Njikoufou | 39. Tikoubafou Mama |
| 10. Njipeyangbo Mama | 25. Njouonkou | 40. Njoya Ibrahim |
| 11. Ngouh Njifomakguet | 26. Nbouonjaprzou | 41. Njouy Ndessah |
| 12. Yéréma | 27. Pandiosa Njoya | 42. Moyouchatt Amadou |
| 13. Lauchidona Mama | 28. Mouapoukoyi | 43. Ndoko Ouséni |
| 14. Mfopatt Mafatt | 29. Tagni | 44. Betukom |
| 15. Tapon Amadou | 30. Poyoum | 45. Njichétou |
| 16. Njimbombor Ndoutono | 31. Mfeujon | 46. Mjonoukou |
| | | 47. Mopou Amadou |

If that was a good arrangement, why sentence all these notables to be banished to places where most of them have died?

We are aware that when the paramount chiefs seize the property of the indigenous inhabitants their authority derives from the French who represent France in Bamoun territory.

There are many European planters here. When they wish to settle on a piece of land, they come to terms with the paramount chief and the Administrator, unknown to the owner. It should, however, be remembered that these lands were awarded for wars fought and won by the side of the King, since in former days it was necessary to accomplish something. This business is still continuing today.

I should also like to inform you that the Governor has never told us about the organization of conseils de notables at Yaoundé. We do not want these conseils any longer; we want regional councils. We have received no letters concerning this matter.

We welcome all Europeans, whether planters or merchants, to our country. But when they come and settle on the land, they should come to terms with the original owners rather than with the paramount chiefs, as the latter method constitutes robbery!

/The whole

The whole Bamoun region is impatiently awaiting the visit you are to make before you leave for the Cameroons.

Please keep us informed.

If the letter I sent you had been communicated to the Governor, he would have written you in reply without letting me know.

We wish to thank you for always answering our letters.

The Regional Committee wrote to you on 23 January 1952 and you have already replied.^{1/} The Procureur and the Governor received the same letter on the same date, but they have not yet said anything, even though they are here in the Cameroons. The paramount chiefs seize the land and are at the same time assessors of the second degree. Surely this is an injustice? We refuse to acknowledge them as assessors because they are thieves.

We are patiently awaiting your arrival this year in accordance with your promise and should be glad if you would let us know the exact date on which you are scheduled to arrive.

I have kept my copy of the letter I mentioned in expectation of your arrival.

I have the honour to be etc.

(signature illegible)

MOUSSA MONTIE

Seal: Propaganda Secretary of the
Regional Committee of the U.P.C.
Bamoun

Received at United Nations Headquarters on 15 May 1952.

^{1/} Note by the Secretariat: The above-mentioned communication has not been received by the Secretariat.