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PETITION FROM THE SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE UDEFEC OF MANJO GARE
CONCERNING THE CAMEROONS UNDER FRENCH ADMINISTRATION

(Circulated in accordance with rule 35, paragraph 2, and supplementary
rule F of the rules of procedure for the Trusteeship Council)

Union démocratiques des femmes camerounaises: U.D.F.C.

Manjo Branch (Moungo Region)

To the Members of the United Nations

Gentlemen,

We have the honour to approach you most respectfully and to draw your attention to the following facts: there are many grievous defects in the Cameroons, but we are most struck by the shortage of equipment and adequate staff for the health services, which have to deal with an extremely high mortality rate in the Territory. Maternity homes and a number of dispensaries with trained staff and proper equipment should therefore be built in the large centres such as Douala, Yaoundé, Nkongsamba, Edéa, Ngaoundéré, etc. We regret that the French Government in the Territory refuses to build even infirmaries in the country districts. In the places where there are alleged to be infirmaries we find empty buildings in the charge of a public health official who has no diploma in medicine. May we give you a striking example: a region such as the Moungo Region, with a population of 400,000, has only one hospital, that at Nkongsamba, and two dispensaries - one at Mbanga and the other at Manjo. At the hospital at Nkongsamba the patients are turned away and forced to pay for the medicines and treatment they need. Miscarriages and countless deaths caused by lack of medical care are a frequent sight all along the railway. Eighty per cent of the young children die for lack of medical assistance. We therefore beseech you to give thorough consideration to this vitally important matter which affects the very life of the whole country.

In addition, we wish to express our vehement indignation at the wholesale manner in which children are expelled from the schools for anti-social reasons. We ask that the number of schools should be increased in all the centres in the Territory and in the countryside, where illiteracy is rampant. We ask that the women of the Cameroons should be trained in all the branches of women's education. We request you to destroy the camps of prostitution which debase the dignity of womankind; we request you to put an end in the Cameroons to divorce which is encouraged by the French Administration. Hoping for a favourable reply, we have the honour to be, etc.

(Signed) Naffo Christine

Chairman

Manjo, 28 December 1954

Youmbi David

General Secretary of the U.D.F.C.

Manjo Station
