

UNITED NATIONS  
TRUSTEESHIP  
COUNCIL



Distr.  
GENERAL

T/OBS.4/6  
15 May 1953

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH -

PETITIONS CONCERNING THE CAMEROONS UNDER BRITISH ADMINISTRATION

Observations of the United Kingdom Government  
as Administering Authority

Note by the Secretariat: These observations refer to the following petitions:

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1. Petition from Mr. S.T. Baiyee (T/PET.4/94)

This communication, presented by the petitioner in connexion with an interview with the 1952 Visiting Mission to West Africa, raises three points of which the first is his previous petition, T/PET.4/87. The observations of the Administering Authority on that petition have been circulated as document T/OBS.4/3 of the 11th of November, 1952.

The second matter consists of representations regarding a plot of land between Mamfe and Tall in which the petitioner's family claim an interest. The facts are that the land referred to is a plot on which a trading station was established during the time of German administration. This area of land together with others described in the fourth schedule to the Land and Native Rights Ordinance, Cap. 105, was specifically excluded from the clause in that ordinance declaring all other lands in the Cameroons to be native lands. In accordance with the usual practice in such cases the Crown rents which were paid on this plot of land while it was leased by the United Africa Company, to the amount of £12 per annum, were remitted by Government as an ex gratia payment to the Native Treasury of the Native Authority within whose jurisdiction the plot of land lies.

Finally, the petitioner draws attention to his unsuccessful application to his employers, the Public Works Department in Victoria, for free transport between Victoria and Mamfe when proceeding on leave. The departmental regulations is that free transport for employees going on leave or on discharge is provided only between the place of employment and the place of engagement. The petitioner presented himself for employment at Victoria and was engaged there. He continued to be employed at Victoria. He was therefore not entitled, by the terms of his contract, to free transport to any place outside Victoria. There is, of course, nothing to prevent the petitioner taking leave in Mamfe provided that he is prepared to pay the cost of his own transport.

2. Petition from Mr. R.N. Ayuk (T/PET.4/37)

Mr. Ayuk is the Manager of a private Primary School at Sumbe, Mamfe Division which has been the subject of a previous petition to the Council, T/PET.4/49.

His present request is that his school should become an Approved Voluntary Agency and receive a Government Grant-in-Aid. In order to secure recognition as an Approved Voluntary Agency, an Agency must first, in accordance with the Grant-in-Aid Regulations made under the Education Ordinance, 1952, fulfil the condition of registration under the Land (Perpetual Succession) Ordinance. The petitioner has taken steps to secure such registration, but unfortunately his application has had to be returned to him several times for amendment in order to put it in the proper form.

Once these formalities have been properly completed the petitioner's application for a Grant-in-Aid will go before the Regional and Central Education Boards.

Inspecting Officers have reported in appreciative terms on the efficiency and atmosphere of Mr. Ayuk's school, and it may be supposed that he may await the outcome of his application with confidence.

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