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COMMUNICATION FROM MR. A.K. IKOMI CONCERNING  
THE CAMEROONS UNDER BRITISH ADMINISTRATION

Note by the Secretary-General: In accordance with rule 24 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 for the Trust Territory of Somaliland, a communication dated 23 September 1952 from Mr. A.K. Ikomi concerning the Trust Territory of the Cameroons under British administration.

copy

From A.K. Ikomi,  
c/o Messrs. John Holt & Co. Ltd.,  
Victoria Cameroons U.U.K.T.,  
West Africa..

23rd September, 1952

The Assistant Secretary-General,  
Department of Trusteeship & Information,  
United Nations Organisation,  
Lake Success, New York,  
U.S.A.

Sir,

I, your humble petitional servant while fully appreciating the receipt of your reply memorandum TR/130/5/02 File No. T/PET.4/78 of 23/5/52 and consequently thereto anxiously anticipating for the promisory consideration conveyed by it, I have contraveneously received letter No.V.942/202 of 3/7/52 from the District Officer - Victoria Division, which body extract I append for your information and due perusal thus:-

"Please refer to your petition dated the 18th December, 1951  
"addressed to the Assistant Secretary-General, United Nations  
"Organisation regarding land at Victoria occupied by the Police  
"Barracks. The land shown on plan P.W.D. No.464 was acquired by  
"Government under the Land and Native Rights Ordinance, all  
"customary rights over it were revoked and you were paid  
"compensation for your rights. No action was ever taken by  
"Government to obtain possession of the remaining portions of  
"your land, and the assumption mentioned in the first sentence  
"of paragraph 5 of your petition has no basis of fact. Your  
"right of occupancy of these areas (marked 2 and 3 on your plan)  
"has not been interferred with."

2. If individual policemen or their families are cultivating  
"any of the land included in the areas marked 2 and 3 on your  
"plan they are doing so as private persons, and you should see  
"the Senior Assistant Superintendent of Police, Victoria, regarding  
"their release to you.

/3. I have

3. I have humbly replied to this letter of the District Officer on 11/9/52 and I attach hereto a copy of the said reply which embodies my entire dissatisfaction in the matter for your kind information and due perusal and relatively submit to you my brief comments thereto as under:-
4. That by letter of the 18/12/51 to you the entire farm land, as indicated by Note No.1 of the Sketch Map thereto attached, is my possession and plots 4/5 were temporarily acquired by Government for the duration of the 1939 - 45 emergency only and for this a scanty compensation of E5 was paid to me and my beneficiaries for the period 1939 - 45 only. Because of this acquisition the Government employees, who were made to occupy areas 4/5, unlawfully encroached upon area 2 by destroying my economical trees thereon. In the event I immediately petitioned Government for the unlawful encroachment but I was surpressed by the local authorities in that my petition was not adhered to.
5. After the emergency, instead of Government surrendering areas 4/5 and my entire farm land according to the original bargain, they only handed it over to their Police Authority whose Staff also engaged themselves in the unlawful encroachment of the said area 2 as afore described. In this instance I again took up the matter with Government according to copies of their letters Nos. V.942/155 of 6/7/50 and 2964/184 of 7/11/50 attached hereto for your information and perusal please.
6. The matter receiving no consideration and settlement by the Local Government I therefore petitioned you on 18/12/51 and addressed a copy of my petition to you for the information of the local authorities. This petition is the one under your consideration according to your letter TR/130/5/02 File No. T/PET.4/78 of 23/5/52 to me as referred to in paragraph 1 of this my humble petition to you.
7. The local Government withstanding I have petitioned you in the matter now attempts to finalise it by ordering the release of area 2 to me according to their letter No. V.942/202 of 3/7/52 the body extract of which is appended to my paragraph 1.
8. My contention in the matter, for your equitable consideration, is therefore as follows:-

/(a) That it

(a) That it is now a life period of 8 successive years i.e. 1945 - 1952, since I have been petitioning Government about the unlawful invasion of section 2 of my farm land by their Military and Police employees.

(b) Since then the only end reached is their letter No.V.942/202 of 3/7/52 in which they have ultimately and officially authorised the release of portion 2 of my farm to me after every economic tree has been destroyed by Government employees in the shadow of Govt. temporary acquisition of areas 4/5 of the said farm land.

(c) That had such an order as contained in Government letter No. V.942/202 of 3/7/52 been made at the time I petitioned to Govt. in the matter, I should not have sustained the present irreparable loss occasioned by Government official neglect to finalise the matter at the onset.

(d) It is therefore clear that I have suffered the loss of my crops on area 2 because Government temporary acquired areas 4/5 and this acquisition promoted Government employees to destroy my crops.

(e) And Government irrespective of my incessant petitions demonstrating the loss has failed for 8 years now to stop the unlawful destruction occasioned by their said acquisition.

(f) In this respect therefore I lawfully look upon Govt. as being responsible for the loss of my crops and so demand compensation for the said loss in the bearing income of £75 per annum for 8 years.

(g) That since Government appreciates to permanently acquire areas 4/5 against the original bargain I therefore submit that a compromising arbitration between myself and Government be reached according to the Land and Native Rights Ordinance either in the way of payment monthly rentals or payment of an adequate compensation for the permanent and perpetual deprivation.

9. A copy of this petition is also addressed to the local Govt. for information.

10. In view of my humble submissions I fervently anticipate to receive your equitable consideration in the matter as contained in your promisory letter TR/130/5/02 File T/PET.4/78 of 23/5/52 to me.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your humble petitioner,

(Signed) A.K. IKOMI  
A.K. Ikomi

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Note by the Secretariat: The enclosures referred to in this communication have been placed in the files of the Secretariat and are available to the members of the Trusteeship Council on request.

Received at United Nations Headquarters: 29 September 1952