



LIMITED

T/COM.5/L.2

6 June 1952

ENGLISH

ORIGINAL: FRENCH

COMMUNICATION FROM THE "COMITE DIRECTEUR DU 'KUMZSE'"  
CONCERNING THE CAMEROONS UNDER FRENCH ADMINISTRATION

Note by the Secretary-General: In accordance with rule 24 and supplementary rule F of the rules of procedure for the Trusteeship Council and in accordance with paragraphs 9 and 10 of the Report of the Committee on Examination of Petitions (T/L.2.5 and Corr.1) approved by the Trusteeship Council at its 397th meeting, on 13 March 1952, 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 2 May 1952 from the "Comité directeur du 'Kumzse'" concerning the Trust Territory of the Cameroons under French administration.

## M O T I O N

The Governing Body of the KUMZSE, the Traditional Assembly of the Bamiléké People (Dschang, Cameroons under French Trusteeship), at its ordinary meeting on 2 May 1952, takes note that article 2 of the Labour Code in the overseas territories as voted by the Council of the Republic on 6 February 1952, is disastrous to the overseas peoples.

The Geneva International Convention of 28 June 1930, a retrograde document, regulates forced labour and cannot be interpreted in France as promoting the prohibition of forced labour as some French citizens would like it to appear to be doing.

The Council of the Governing Body of KUMZSE is profoundly convinced that the introduction of that convention, under article 2, will, if it is maintained, serve as a pretext for resuming the recruitment of forced labour in the overseas territories.

It therefore protests most strongly against article 2, which will once more bring grief to African mothers and children, and spread death in its train.

The sad days of forced labour before the last World War are not yet forgotten: many of us had left our homes to take refuge in the Cameroons under British administration where forced labour was unknown; most of the families, especially in Africa, were dispersed as a result of lack of freedom, etc.

If those were the achievements of a human institution, what purpose had it served? That of the Cameroons or of France? No, it could only serve the interests of those who are the enemies of society, the brigands.

But since the abolition of forced labour and the Indigénat in 1946, official statistics show an appreciable increase in the population of the Cameroons, together with a considerable development of economic production in the territory, as one truly French Minister has confirmed in a recent speech at Yaoundé.

The French Government should not bear the responsibility for the acts of a few individuals, for if it does not react in time, the tears of the overseas peoples may bring down a curse upon it.

/So far

So far no Cameroonian who has been to France has ever had any difficulty in enjoying the same freedom to work as his fellow men. Experience has thus shown that anything that is bad for a Frenchman worthy of the name is equally bad for honest coloured people, of whatever social class.

The meeting of the Governing Body of KUMZSE, an independent indigenous association, requests the French Government and all the people of France, regardless of party, to take action in the spirit of true French justice by securing the complete abolition of article 2 of the Labour Code for the Overseas Territories or the withdrawal of the International Geneva Convention of 28 June 1930.

It also requests all overseas parliamentary deputies to awaken to the danger that is threatening their electors.

The people of the Cameroons, for their part, now prefer death to forced labour.

Done at Dschang (Cameroons), 2 May 1952.

The General Council of the Governing Body of the KUMZSE

Copies to:

Atcam: .....	1	Bamiléké Traditional Assembly
Haussaire Yaounde: .....	1	
Minister for Overseas France: .....	1	(seal):
National Assembly: .....	1	
Conseil de Magistrature: .....	1	
All KUMZSE Committees: .....	1	K U M Z S E
Archives: .....	1	Cameroons

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