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COMMUNICATION FROM THE REVEREND S. SCHOLES CONCERNING
TOGOLAND UNDER FRENCH ADMINISTRATION

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procedure of the Trusteeship Council)

Note by the Secretariat: This communication was transmitted to
the Secretary-General by the United Nations Commission on
Togoland under French administration.

June 16th 1957

Rev. S. Scholes,
Box 0120, X'borg.,
Accra. Ghana

To The Delegates of the United Nations Commission,
Lome, Togo.

Dear Sirs,

On Tuesday the 11th, June I visited the French Embassy in Accra to request a visa for the Autonomous Republic of Togo and Dahomey. I made the request in order to visit the mission stations for which I am responsible in those two countries. The request was made on the proper forms. The lady secretary told me that they could not issue me with the visa which I had asked for. When I asked for the reason, I was told that I knew better than they did. This is incorrect, as I know of no reason. On the following day I saw the ambassador himself and he could give no further light on the matter, only that the orders had been received from Dakar. It is for this reason that I am writing to you, to see if you can help me to obtain the visa which will enable me to continue my work in Togo.

If you will bear with me I will give you what I consider to be the background of the trouble.

In May 1956 I visited Dahomey and saw the Head of the Political Bureau at Porto Novo and also the French Commander of the Athieme District in Dahomey. They informed me of the improper behaviour of some of the people belonging to our church. This was my first visit to Dahomey as I had only arrived in Africa the previous month. I gave them my word that these troubles would finish. I also asked the Head of the Political Bureau at Porto Novo what I had to do in order to obtain recognition for the church I was representing, namely the "Apostolic Church of French West Africa". He told me and in course of time I made my request. A few months later I visited the two officials and asked if there had been any further complaints about the members of our church and they told me, No. The Head of the Political Bureau on being asked about our request for recognition told me that he was very confused, as he had received a request from other people for a church named the "Apostolic Church", and he asked me to change the name of our church which I agreed to do and made a fresh application for recognition under the name of "Christian Fellowship". Later I was told that my request had been refused and in December last year, I was told by the French Ambassador in Accra that he had received instructions not to issue me with a visa for Dahomey under any circumstance. No reason was given. I continue to receive visas for Togo as I requested them until June 11th. of this year when without any reason being given, I was told that they had instructions from Dakar not to issue me with visas.

We are a body which devotes itself entirely to evangelical activities, not meddling in any way with Politics.

As in the constitution for Togo, liberty for religion is guaranteed for everyone, and as I understand that Togo is still considered as Mandated Territory by the United Nations I am asking you to look into this matter for me. Receive my grateful thanks for your kind consideration and help.

Yours truly,
(Rev. S. Scholes)

Copy to French Embassy in Accra.
