

UNITED NATIONS
TRUSTEESHIP
COUNCIL



Distr.
LIMITED

T/COM.7/L.31
9 June 1955
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: FRENCH

COMMUNICATION FROM MR. KOMLAN AWUSSU CONCERNING
TOGOLAND UNDER FRENCH ADMINISTRATION

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COPY

Komlan AWUSSU

Farmer residing at Menu-Awawa

British Togoland

Hohoe, 16 May 1955

(Copy for information purposes) to

The Administrator for Overseas France
Commanding the Atakpame Cercle
ATAKPAME

Subject: Menu-Awawa Land

Sir,

I have the honour to draw your attention to the fact, known to the French authorities in earlier days, that Hermann DJAGOU, son of the late EGBLOMASSE, now residing at Badou, is our Customary Chief and is recognized as such by the entire population of Badou and the canton of Litimé. We all realize that he is the local chief and no one intends to usurp his office. However, where land is concerned everyone has his share, as is recognized by the inhabitants.

Naturally, Chief Hermann DJAGOU Eglblomassé says that the land occupied by the people of Menu-Awawa after the delimitation of the border between French and British Togoland belongs to the KUWASSI Gnanku family of Papassé and not to the Akpessos of Menu-Awawa, of the AGBO family, which was fully recognized by both the French and British Administering Authorities.

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I must say quite frankly that since the days of Administrator-Mayor GAUDILLOT, the land of the Akposses of Menu-Awawa who had remained in British Togoland after the delimitation actually belonged to the Akposses of Menu-Awawa whose Chief, Mr. ACHO, was recognized by both the French and British Administrators.

I should be glad if you would address enquiries to Mr. AZIANOU, the Chief of the Kossibos, who can give you information concerning this land which is situated on the British Togoland (Menu-Awawa) side. You might obtain additional information from Chief KOUGBANNI of the canton of Abléwakô. Moreover, in view of the fact that no one from the EGBLOMASSE family ever held the chieftom of Menu-Awawa, British Togoland, there is no reason why they should be given the land which belongs to all the Akpossos children.

We draw your attention to the fact that Chief Hermann DJAGOU EGBLOMASSE deliberately instructed witnesses such as Chief ADAOU of the canton of Tomégbé and Chief DASALITOU of the canton of Akolowa to testify the the Menu-Awawa land did not belong to the AGBO families but to the KWASSI Gnaku families of Papassé. Chief Hermann DJAGOU EGBLOMASSE did so in order to seize the land and to sell it against the interests of all the Akpossos children and for the benefit of the people of Papassé (British Togoland).

We, on the other hand, have been fighting for the interests of the Akpossos children, as the late Chief AGBO had done. This land question first came up a long time ago and there was a war between the Buéms and the Akpossos, on one side, and the Assantis of Akawu on the other. As compensation for the losses suffered by the Buem, we had to send 33 men (human beings) 33 sheep, 33 bolts of indigenous cloth and 33 sticks of indigenous tobacco to Chief AKPADJA of the Buem who helped us free ourselves from the yoke of the Assantis of Akawu. The KWASSI Gnaku family of Papassé, who originally came from Dodi, was unaware of all this.

To-day Hermann DJAGOU EGBLOMASSE tells the British Togoland authorities, with the aid of perjurers, that the AGBO family of the Akposso race is the recognized owners of the land at Menu-Awawa.

In point of fact, however, since the time of Chief AGBO, who disappeared long ago, KOMLAN Awussu and OBAKO Djena, who are members of the same family as AGBO, have managed and still manage the affairs of Menu-Awawa, and are recognized by the Administering Authority in British Togoland.

I therefore respectfully request you to intercede with Herman DJAGOU EGBLOMASSE to withdraw his claims. If not, he will prepare another terrible war which will cost human lives.

Hoping that this communication will receive your attention, I have the honour to be, etc.....

(not signed)

Komlan Awussu
