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COMMUNICATION FROM THE GENERAL SECRETARY OF THE "MOUVEMENT POPULAIRE TOGOLAIS"  
CONCERNING TOGOLAND UNDER FRENCH ADMINISTRATION

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MOUVEMENT POPULAIRE TOGOLAIS

M. P. T.

Lomé, 5 September 1957.

THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE TO  
The Prime Minister of the Autonomous Republic of Togoland,

LOME

Sir,

We consider it our bounden duty to lodge a strong protest, on behalf of the Mouvement populaire Togolais, against the shameful conduct of one of your Ministers, Mr. Emmanuel FIAWOO, towards Father Jean Gbikpi, doctor of theology and canon law, who was born in this country of a noble and honourable family that is well-known in all Christian circles.

As a result of a sermon against public immorality which he delivered from the pulpit, the Reverend Father was maltreated and beaten in one of the offices of the Ministry of Information and was called a hooligan and a fool by Mr. Emmanuel Fiawoo.

We are convinced that this incident is repugnant to all Christians and honourable people.

This scandal does credit neither to us, nor to the country, nor to your Cabinet, nor to the young Republic, in the eyes of the world.

The fact that Mr. Fiawoo addressed our Reverend Father in coarse and abusive terms might perhaps be excusable, since our Minister is not sufficiently educated to understand the full import of those terms. But we cannot forgive his taking the

liberty of striking a blow or blows at the Reverend Father. And we have no hesitation in telling you, Sir, that we are extremely dissatisfied with the unhappy choice you made in appointing this Minister.

What is done is done. Like a disciple of Jesus, the Reverend Father has accepted this without flinching and is even ready to turn the other cheek. But all Christians and the people are shocked and are living in an atmosphere of discontent and irritability. They expect you, Sir, to take some measure of just reparation which would pacify them.

(Seal)

For the Executive Committee,  
(Signature) illegible  
S.A. Atayi  
General Secretary  
P.O. Box 96  
Lomé

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