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COMMUNICATION FROM THE TABLIGBO CIRCULAR YOUTH MOVEMENT
CONCERNING TOGOLAND UNDER FRENCH ADMINISTRATION

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The Tabligbo Circular Youth Movement
P. O. Box 36
Nima-Accra

24 October 1956

To the Commandant de Cercle of Tabligbo, Togoland

Subject: Incident at Kouve' (Lokotome)

Tabligbo, October 1956

Sir,

I have the honour to bring to your attention the following facts and to ask you to be good enough to report the chief of Kouve' as soon as possible.

1. One Friday evening, when the inhabitants of the village apparently had permission to play their tom toms, shortly after they started to play, the chief sent his guards, accompanied by two French guards, to break up the group of players. He himself followed with his rifle. The guards began to beat the players for no reason at all. Some managed to escape, but it was outrageous.

2. After a while, when his men had handed out a thorough beating, the chief telephoned to the chief of the guards at Zebe' to send guards to help him, as the inhabitants of his village wanted to kill him (this was utterly false). When the

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guards arrived on the scene, they were surprised to find that no part of the story was true. As the chief had caused them unnecessary trouble, they were irritated by his lies.

3. Finally he ordered them to make arrests. They arrested several men and took them into his house where the beatings were resumed and continued until midnight. At about five o'clock in the morning, he divided the men into two groups and had the guards take one group to Zebe', keeping the second group in prison so that he could continue to maltreat them.

4. Early on in the incident, he told the guards to go hunting - that is to say, to shoot in the bush and kill those who had escaped. They fired over twenty-five shots into the bush on the chief's order.

5. There is surely no need for me to emphasize the irregularity and scandalousness of such behaviour, for you will realize what it means. If all the inhabitants of this village were to be killed or bombed, who would be responsible? You. I therefore ask for your judgement and your answer.

I have the honour to be, etc.

(Signed) illegible

General Secretary, Accra

Copy to the United Nations, Lake Success
