

UNITED NATIONS

TRUSTEESHIP
COUNCIL



GENERAL

19

T/960

20 February 1952

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

PETITION FROM THE TOGOLAND NATIONAL FARMERS' UNION
CONCERNING TOGOLAND UNDER BRITISH ADMINISTRATION (T/PET.6/305)

Observations of the Administering Authority

The letter reproduced in document T/PET.6/305 does not contain any representations to the United Nations or to the Administering Authority, but is in fact a circular addressed to the Native Administrations in Togoland conveying to those bodies the information that an organization calling itself the "Togoland Produce Marketing Board" has been set up and asking them for support in securing the objective of the "Board".

Since the "petition" makes no request of the Trusteeship Council the Administering Authority does not feel it necessary to make observations on the substance of the question it raises. It is suggested that the Council take no action on the "petition".

As a general comment, the Administering Authority wishes to draw the attention of the Council to the fact that it has observed that from time to time documents (such as T/PET.6/305) are circulated to the Council as petitions which are not petitions in any sense of the word, since they either contain no request addressed specifically to the United Nations or contain requests addressed to some other authority (e.g. the territorial administration) a copy being sent to the United Nations for information. The circulation of such documents in the "Petitions" series serves only to inflate the Agenda of the Trusteeship Council, to lead to expenditure of time, money and paper in reproduction, postage, and the diversion of the services of the Secretariat, and to complicate the work of the Petitions Committee and the Council itself. The Administering Authority therefore wishes to suggest that all communications relating to Trust Territories should be scrutinized by the Secretary-General to ascertain whether they contain a complaint or a request specifically addressed to the United Nations and invoking action by the United Nations. All communications containing such requests or complaints should then be circulated

as petitions: all other communications should be summarized and their existence drawn to the attention of members of the Trusteeship Council by the circulation of a list of these summaries in accordance with Rule 24 of the Councils' Rules of Procedure. Members of the Council if they so wish may then ask that the full text of any document be given general circulation.

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