



UNITED NATIONS

TRUSTEESHIP  
COUNCIL



GENERAL

T/955/Add.1  
20 February 1952

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

PETITIONS CONCERNING THE CAMEROONS UNDER BRITISH  
ADMINISTRATION

Observations of the Administering Authority

Note by the Secretariat: The Secretariat has the honour to transmit to members of the Trusteeship Council the observations of the United Kingdom Government on the following petitions:

- I. Petition from the French Cameroons Welfare Union.....T/PET.4/72
- II. Petition from Mr. Philip F. Dinka.....T/PET.4/73
- III. Petition from Mr. John Kulle Birmingham.....T/PET.4/75
- IV. Petition from the Bakweri Land Committee.....T/PET.4/76

I. PETITION FROM THE FRENCH CAMEROONS  
WELFARE UNION (T/PET.4/72)

1. The Administering Authority has taken note of the resolution adopted by the Trusteeship Council at its 37<sup>4</sup>th meeting on the 17th July 1951, when, having accepted and examined at its 9th session the petitions from Mr. Joseph Ngu (T/PET.4/70) and the French Cameroons Welfare Union (T/PET.4/71 and T/PET.4/71/Add.1), the Council requested the Administering Authority to furnish in its next annual report additional information on the question of the status of residents of the Cameroons under United Kingdom Administration who are immigrants from the Cameroons under French Administration, and decided to re-examine these petitions at the session of the Trusteeship Council at which the requested information becomes available. The 1951 Report, which will incorporate the information asked for by the Council, will be available for the Summer session of 1952.

2. In view of the above resolution, the Administering Authority considers that, as T/PET.4/72 raises no points additional to those in T/PETs.4/70 and 4/71/Add.1-3 from Mr. Joseph Ngu, and T/PETs.4/71 and 4/71/Add.1-3 from the French Cameroons Welfare Union, which are due to be considered by the Council at its summer session, T/PET.4/72 would best be examined at that time, when the Council will be in possession of the fuller information contained in the 1951 Report on the Cameroons under British Administration.

II. PETITION FROM MR. PHILIP F. DINKA (T/PET.4/73)

1. The present petition is submitted by a son of Chief N.D. Fongum, a previous petition from whom was dealt with by the Council in Resolution No. 331 (VIII) of the Eighth Session. In accordance with that Resolution the Administration has given further consideration to the suggestion that Widikum should be transferred from the Mamfe Division to the Bamenda Province. It was found that the suggestion was not supported by a majority of the population of Widikum and it has therefore been decided that no change in the Divisional boundary should be made at the present time.
2. Mr. Dinka, alleging that the people of Widikum suffer from a lack of facilities in education, medical services and communications, now asks once more for the transfer of the village to the Bamenda Province and requests the establishment in it of a dispensary and a postal agency and the provision of a concrete bridge over the river which separates it from the main Mamfe-Bamenda motor-road. He also alleges that the Administration recently prevented the people of Widikum from making improvements to the village paths by their own efforts.
3. In the matter of communications Widikum is in fact well provided, for the whole of it is within a mile of the Mamfe-Bamenda motor-road. It is separated from the road by the Mumo River, which is crossed by a suspension footbridge of temporary materials. This bridge, though still serviceable, is at present in a poor state of repair. Materials are already on order for its renovation but its replacement by an expensive concrete structure would not be justified in the present state of development in the area generally.
4. Widikum, which has an adult male population of 210, is also well served in the matter of education. Two Government assisted Mission primary schools are already functioning there. One is a Standard VI Roman Catholic Mission School with 250 pupils, of whom 60 are from Widikum and its neighbouring village of Decbe: this school is in the charge of an European missionary resident in Widikum. The other is a Standard IV school managed by the Basel Mission. In these schools there are still vacancies in all classes and it is clear that educational facilities are more than adequate for the area at the present time.
5. The village is less fortunate with regard to medical services but in this direction also is comparatively well off, for there is a dispensary twelve miles /away, at

away, at Batibo on the main road. There is of course nothing to prevent the people of Batibo from attending the Government hospital at Bamenda rather than that at Mamfe if they so prefer. There is a good deal of public transport plying in both directions.

6. Postal services are at present made available to the people of Widikum through the courtesy of the Reverend Father living there, who allows the people to share with him the use of a regular mail bag which he has delivered and collected as the Government mail-van passes through on its journey between Mamfe and Bamenda. The volume of traffic does not as yet justify the establishment of a public Postal Agency.

7. The frustrated efforts of self-help to which the petitioner refers unfortunately took the form of compulsion by a resuscitated secret society, known as "Menang", which formerly had an unsavoury reputation. This caused grave concern within the village, particularly among the Christian community, and the Administration was obliged to intervene in order to preserve the liberties of the public. Any worthy and genuine effort of community development would, of course, meet with prompt encouragement and assistance.

8. With regard to the proposal with Widikum should be transferred to the Bamenda Province it would seem that the petitioner should be informed of the reason for the decision referred to in the first paragraph above. In connection with his other requests it would seem appropriate for him to refer to the previous recommendations of the Council regarding social and economic development in the Trust Territory generally.

III. PETITION FROM MR. JOHN KULLE BIRMINGHAM (T/PET.4/75)

This petition is an expression of sorrow which does not appear to call for detailed comment. It is suggested that it will be appropriate for the Trusteeship Council simply to note its content.

IV. PETITION FROM THE BAKWERI LAND COMMITTEE (T/PET.4/76)

1. All the points made in this petition have already been fully and finally dealt with by the Council and the Administering Authority has nothing to add to what has previously been said on the subject.
2. It appears that the Bakweri Land Committee can no longer fairly claim to be fully representative of the Bakweri people. Other Bakweri representatives anxious to avail themselves of the offered resettlement scheme have now begun to approach the Administration with requests for its implementation and the prospects of progress in this matter are markedly improving.