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PETITIONS CONCERNING THE TRUST TERRITORY OF THE  
CAMEROONS UNDER FRENCH ADMINISTRATION

Draft Report of the Standing Committee on Petitions

Acting Chairman: Mr. Salah Eddine Tarazi (Syria)

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Note by the Secretariat: In order to avoid unnecessary duplication of material which has been already circulated in mimeographed form, sections II and III of the present draft report contains only the material to be added to that contained in the Secretariat working paper (T/C.2/L.165, sections I and II) and the draft resolutions. The original material should be considered as forming part of the draft, except where otherwise indicated. Section I is, however, complete in itself.]

1. At its 277th, and meetings on 13, and July 1955, the Standing Committee on Petitions, composed of the representatives of Australia, France, India, Syria, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, and the United States of America, examined the petitions concerning the Trust Territory of the Cameroons under French administration which are listed in the preceding table of contents.
2. Mr. Doise participated in the examination as the special representative of the Administering Authority concerned.
3. The Standing Committee submits herewith to the Council its report on these petitions and recommends, in accordance with rule 90, paragraph 6 of the Council's rules of procedure, that the Council decide that no special information is required concerning the action taken on resolutions.....

I. Petition from the Vice-Chairman of the "Union des Populations du Cameroun"  
(T/PET.5/351)

1. In a cablegram dated 6 November 1954 Mr. Abel Kingue, Vice-Chairman of the UPC protests that the headquarters of the organization and their records offices at the home of Mr. Matip were subjected to an improper search. He claims that groups of police including superintendents, inspectors and constables, without observing the conditions prescribed by law, have removed records and arrested the wife and sister of Mr. Matip. He claims that the purpose of the search and the search warrant were not shown and that a safe key was seized and cases and drawers broken open. He requests the intervention of the United Nations.
2. In its observations (T/OBS.5/47, section 6) on this petition the Administer: Authority states following a meeting of the local branch of the Conseil de la Jeunesse de l'Union Française at Douala on 31 October 1954, Mr. Lawrence, econom adviser, was attacked by persons believed to be supporters of the UPC. During the scuffle his brief-case containing important documents was stolen. On 1 November Mr. Lawrence lodged a complaint with the Police Commissioner of Douala. The matter was referred to the State Council's office which appointed the Chief of the Regional Brigade of the Judicial Police of Douala to conduct an investigation. That officer undertook a search of the premises of the UPC at Douala in an effort to find the lost documents. No arrest was made. The case is now in the hands of the judicial authorities.
3. The incident complained of in this petition is also complained of in a further series of petitions together with various other incidents.<sup>1/</sup>
4. The petition was examined and discussed at the 277th and meetings of the Standing Committee (documents T/C.2/SR.277 and ).
5. The representative of the Administering Authority informed the Committee that the searches complained of were carried out as a result of a warrant issued by the Examining Magistrate and authorized searches to be carried out at Douala

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<sup>1/</sup> For the petitions concerned, see document T/C.2/L.156, section 2.

in the headquarters of the UPC and at the domiciles of a number of persons who had attended the lecture given by Mr. Lawrence. It was perfectly legal that certain documents which might assist the Examining Magistrate in his inquiry should be copied or should be carried off. The search had been carried out in the presence of certain members of the UPC at headquarters and of members of the families of the persons concerned at their homes. No excessive force of police had been engaged in these operations and no person had been arrested or detained.

6. At its meeting, the Committee adopted by votes to with abstention draft resolution I, annexed to the present report, which it recommends that the Council adopt.

I. Petition from the Vice-Chairman of the "Union des Populations du Cameroun" (T/PET.5/351)

The Trusteeship Council,

Having examined the petition from the Vice-Chairman of the "Union des Populations du Cameroun" concerning the Cameroons under French administration in consultation with France as the Administering Authority concerned (T/PET.5/351, T/OBS.5/47, T/L. ).

1. Draws the attention of the petitioner to the observations of the Administering Authority and to the statements of the representative of France in particular that

- (a) the searches of these premises were carried out under the authority of warrants lawfully executed by a magistrate,
- (b) no documents were carried off or copied by the police in violation of the law or provisions of the search warrants in the course of the searches of these premises,
- (c) no persons were arrested by the police in the course of these searches nor were any detained,

- (d) no excessive force of police was engaged in these searches, and
- (e) the searches were not carried out in the absence of the persons responsible for the premises searched;

2. Further draws the attention of the petitioner to resolution (XVI) which it adopted in relation to the petitions concerning the assault on Mr. Lawrence.

II. Petition from the "Comité de base" of the UPC at Makondo (T/PET.5/363)

4. In its observations (T/OBS.5/52, section 1) the Administering Authority states that it has no comment to offer on this petition, which protests against the position adopted by a Catholic mission towards a political party.
5. The Administering Authority further states that it does not propose to intervene in a difference of opinion so long as it is not likely to lead to a breach of the peace.
6. The petition was examined and discussed at the 277th and meetings of the Standing Committee (documents T/C.2/SR.277 and ).
7. The representative of the Administering Authority informed the Committee that the Administering Authority had no knowledge that any persons had been obliged by members of the Clergy to sign blank papers.
8. At its meeting, the Committee adopted by votes to with abstention draft resolution II, annexed to the present report, which it recommends that the Council adopt.

II. Petition from the "Comité de base" of the UPC  
at Makondo (T/PET.5/363)

The Trusteeship Council,

Having examined the petition from the "Comité de base" of the UPC at Makondo concerning the Cameroons under French administration in consultation with France as the Administering Authority concerned (T/PET.5/363, T/OBS.5/52, T/L. ).

1. Draws the attention of the petitioner to the observations of the Administering Authority;
2. Notes that these observations are based on the principle, which is embodied in the French law, of the separation of Church and State.

III. Petition from the "Comité de base" of the UPC at Mboué-Edéa (T/PET.5/364)

8. In its observations (T/OBS.5/52, section 2) the Administering Authority expresses the opinion that the petition from the Mboué-Edéa Local Committee calls for no comment by it as the questions of a general nature raised by the petitioners are dealt with in the report submitted to the Trusteeship Council.

9. The Administering Authority estimates the number of former wage-earners now unemployed at 2,000, and not 500,000.

10. The Administering Authority points out that the petitioners refer to incidents which occurred at Douala in 1945, before the Trusteeship System came into force. The Catholic Mission was not involved in these incidents in any way.

11. The petition was examined and discussed at the 277th and meetings of the Standing Committee (documents T/C.2/SR.277 and ).

12. The representative of France explained that there was as yet no system of unemployment allowances in the Territory. In this connexion he pointed out that persons who became unemployed were in the great majority of cases able to return to the land and find their subsistence there.

13. At its meeting, the Committee adopted by votes to with abstention draft resolution III, annexed to the present report, which it recommends that the Council adopt.

III. Petition from the "Comité de base" of the UPC  
at Mboué-Edéa (T/PET.5/364)

The Trusteeship Council,

Having examined the petition from the "Comité de base" of the UPC at Mboué-Edéa concerning the Cameroons under French administration in consultation with France as the Administering Authority concerned (T/PET.5/364, T/OBS.5/52, T/L. ).

1. Draws the attention of the petitioners to the observations of the Administering Authority;



2. Further draws the attention of the petitioners to the recommendations adopted by the Trusteeship Council at its fifteenth session on conditions in the Territory;
3. Requests the Secretary-General to transmit to the petitioners Trusteeship Council resolution..... (XVI) on the petition from the "Comité de base" of the UFC at Makorã (T/PET.5/563).<sup>1/</sup>

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<sup>1/</sup> See section II above.