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PETITIONS CONCERNING THE TRUST TERRITORY OF THE CAMEROONS UNDER FRENCH ADMINISTRATION

Working paper prepared by the Secretariat

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I. Petition from the General Assembly of the Committees of the Union des populations du Cameroun of the Nkam region (T/PET.5/531)

1. In a letter of 15 October 1954 the petitioners complain about the numerous attacks on the members of the U.P.C. by "mercenaries encouraged by the Administration": the attack on Um Nyobe; the destruction of Mouchili's hut; the attack on Abel Kingué at Mbaréko; on Kémen Sakeo at Nkongsamba; on André-Claude Nyobe, Fasso François and others at Ndikinimeki.
2. The petitioners state that the French Government, through the Territorial Assembly of the Cameroons, is endeavouring to seize their ports and airfields, particularly the one at Douala.
3. The petitioners call for the organization of a referendum by the United Nations, the creation of a legislative assembly consisting of indigenous inhabitants from both territories, the setting of the earliest possible date for independence, and United Nations support to prevent the expropriation of ports and airfields.
4. In its observations (T/OBS.5/83, section 6) the Administering Authority states that it has already supplied full observations on the petitioner's statements, as follows:

Case of Isaac Mouchili Foubot: observations on Petition T/PET.5/320 (see T/OBS.5/50, section 4; T/L.624; and Trusteeship Council resolution 1474 (XVII)).

Incidents at Mbouroukou (Kingué Abel): observations on petition T/PET.5/232 (see T/OBS.5/26, section 3; T/L.470; and Trusteeship Council resolution 1044 (XIV)).

Case of Kamen Sakeo: observations on petition T/PET.5/245 and Add.1 and 2 (see T/OBS.5/29, section 2; and T/OBS.5/29/Add.2; T/L.481; and Trusteeship Council resolution 1050 (XIV); T/L.523 and Council resolution 1148 (XV)).

Incidents of July 1954 at Ndikinimeki: observations on petition T/PET.5/320 and Add.1 (see T/OBS.5/50, section 4; T/L.624 and Trusteeship Council resolution 1474 (XVII)).

Case of the airfield at Douala: observations on petitions T/PET.5/312 and T/PET.5/473 (see T/OBS.5/42, section 3; T/L.597 and Trusteeship Council resolution 1335 (XVI); and T/OBS.5/73, section 5; T/L.624 and Council resolution 1479 (XVII)).

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II. Petition from the General Assembly of the population of Makénéné
(T/PET.5/552)

1. The petition consists of a motion, adopted by the people of Makénéné, who met in General Assembly on 25 February 1955, and of which the principal signatory is Mr. Thomas Siankam, as Chairman of the Central Committee of the UPC and traditional chief of Makénéné. The petition complains of a number of harassments of UPC supporters by the Chief Subdivisional Officer, Mr. P. Joriot, and the Administrative Chief, Georges Béné. Among the actions complained of are the following:

(a) On 22 February 1955 a UPC member, Mr. Engelbert Sitcheu, was attacked and beaten by a gang organized by Chief Béné and was then imprisoned by the Chief Subdivisional Officer. On the same day, a Mr. Poujoum attempted to assassinate Mr. Siankam and was only prevented from doing so by the people. No action was taken either against the aggressors of Mr. Sitcheu or against Mr. Poujoum.

(b) On 23 February 1955, Chief Béné declared publicly that he would have Mr. Siankam's head delivered to him by bandits so that he could reign unhindered in Makénéné.

(c) In October 1954, Chief Béné destroyed the concession of a Mr. Paul Njakou and no action has been taken on the complaint filed on this case.

(d) On 29 November 1954, two guards entered the cabin of Mr. Siankam by force and seized two guns, one of which belonged to a Mr. Meyouka. The guards stated that they were acting on the instructions of the Chief Subdivisional Officer and this would appear to be confirmed by the fact that, up to the present, that officer has retained the guns without any justification.

(e) Part of the plantation of a Mr. Habdou, Chairman of the Makénéné branch of the J.D.C., was occupied by the CTC which did some construction on it. This same company also seized some stones with which Mr. Habdou had intended to build a coffee dryer.

(f) The C.T.C. destroyed ten trees and other plants on the plantation of Mr. Ngatcha, Vice-Chairman of the Central Committee of the Makénéné branch of the UPC, while he was in the hospital at Yaoundé. In compensation, the company gave him only 5,000 francs, whereas the value of the produce destroyed may easily be more than 500,000 francs.

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(g) In July 1954, the Chief Subdivisional Officer placed an administration car at the disposal of a band of mercenaries in order to encourage them to assassinate the members of the UPC delegation in the Subdivision.

(h) The Chief Subdivisional Officer arbitrarily compelled Mr. André Bayoglag to pay double taxes for the same year because he had lodged the UPC delegation at his home.

(i) The produce of UPC members is refused at the markets and their coffee and cocoa are condemned.

2. The petitioners express a desire for the referendum proposed by the UPC on the unification and independence of the Cameroons.

3. In its observations (T/OBS.5/99, section 4) the Administering Authority makes the following statements:

(paragraph (a) above - It is true that Mr. Sitcheu Engelbert was arrested on 23 February 1955. He was brought before the Magistrate's Court with extended powers at Bafia on a charge of assault and battery and breaking and entering and on 21 July 1955 was sentenced to five months' imprisonment. It is not true that Mr. Sitcheu was beaten by the Chief of the Ndikiniméki Subdivision or by other persons.

(paragraph (b) above) - It is not true that Mr. Siankam's life was threatened.

(paragraph (c) above) - Nor is it true that Mr. Bene Georges destroyed the concession of Mr. Njankou Paul. The investigation carried out by the Magistrate with extended powers at Bafia showed Mr. Njankou's complaint to be unfounded and proved that this is a false accusation.

(paragraph (d) above) - It is true that firearms belonging to Mr. Siankam and Mr. Mayouka were confiscated on 10 June 1955 by order of the Magistrate with extended powers at Bafia for violation of the firearms regulations. These two weapons were seized from a third person who possessed neither a permit to carry firearms nor a game licence.

(paragraph (e) above) - Mr. Habdou has never lodged a complaint against the CTC with respect to construction on his plantation or the theft of stones. The CTC is temporarily occupying land belonging to the Banen Community of Ndokohoc under a private agreement. The results of the investigation into the theft Mr. Habdou claims to have suffered show that the equivalent of one quarter of a

cubic metre of stones that Mr. Habdou had placed in a pile were taken inadvertently by some workmen of the CTC who had been told to collect stones from a quarry nearby. The stones taken from Mr. Habdou were replaced and this trifling incident was never reported to the Manager of the CTC or to the Subdivisional Office.

(paragraph (f) above) - Mr. Ngatcha Joseph had laid out his plantation on land covered by the CTC's timber-felling permit. Some damage was therefore caused but Mr. Ngatcha received compensation to a total of 13,220 francs, in accordance with the rates in force (Decree No. 675 of 26 February 1948).

(paragraph (h) above) - It is not true that Mr. Bayoglag André was compelled to pay double taxes for having lodged UPC members at his home. Mr. Bayoglag, who was found to be plying his trade in the market place without having bought a licence, was ordered to pay twice the price of the licence, in accordance with articles 241, 264 and 268 of the General Code of Direct Taxation (Code Général des Impôts Directs).

(paragraph (i) above) - It is ridiculous to assert that the Administration refuses to allow produce grown by UPC members into the markets. It is quite obvious that cocoa, palm kernels and coffee do not bear a party trade mark.

III. Petitions from the Djoum Committee of the UPC (T/PET.5/556) and from Mr. Ntamack Mbock (T/PET.5/557)

1. The authors of these two petitions state that the Djoum Subdivision, under the administration of Mr. Pierre Morel, is suffering abuses reminiscent of forced labour and the indigénat system. They mention, for example, the construction of a pond by workers who were recruited by force on 13 and 14 December 1954, and the construction of an airfield which was still being built at the time.
2. In an undated letter received on 16 March 1955 (T/PET.5/556), the Djoum Committee of the UPC cites the case of Jean Ngo'o, stated to have been imprisoned after being kicked on the seat by Mr. Morel for having asked for his wages for February. The petitioners add that his brother, Gaston Ntoton, appealed for justice to the Chief Regional Officer and he was summoned by that Officer's deputy, who was passing through Djoum on his tour and who forced him to send a telegram disclaiming his protest of 2 March and accusing the wireless operator. He was then given a thousand-franc note.

3. The petitioners also state that the same Chief Subdivisional Officer, when passing through Oveng, imprisoned Mr. Joseph Asso'o closed his shop and withdrew his trading licence for over two months, on a charge of threats of violence against Paramount Chief Luc Edeng. He also thrashed with his belt the people who were repairing the bridge across the river Momo at Avebe in the Canton of Zamen.
4. Mr. Ntamack Mbock, chief of the wireless station at Djoum, states in a letter of 6 March 1955 with a postscript of 9 March (T/PET.5/557) that Mr. Morel beat and imprisoned the workers who demanded their wages for February. Those workers wired the Chief Regional Officer at Dja and Lobo to request their release, and Mr. Morel was promptly summoned. Upon his return, Mr. Morel tried to obtain from the petitioner the names of his accusers and threatened him when on grounds of professional secrecy, he refused to give the names. Mr. Ntamack calls for United Nations intervention to protect him; he states that on 8 March Mr. Morel "bribed some people wrongfully to accuse him".
5. In its observations on petition T/PET.5/556 (T/OBS.5/86, section 4) the Administering Authority states that Mr. Jean Ngo'o has never been arrested. Mr. Joseph Asso'o was arrested on 23 December 1954 for threats, disturbance of the peace at night and sale of alcoholic beverages without a licence and was discharged on 30 December 1954 by order of the examining magistrate at Sangmélima. There is no proof and no reason to believe that Mr. Gaston Ntotome, the brother of Mr. Jean Ngo'o, was forced to send the Chief of the Sangmélima Region the telegram of which a copy is attached to the petition. The Administering Authority declares that it has not received the thousand-franc note which is mentioned in the petition which should have been attached to it.
6. The Administering Authority adds that the work on the airfield and the fishpond was performed voluntarily by the whole population. It should be noted that this work, carried out under the Petit équipement rural (PER) scheme, the principles of which are stated in the annual report, is done only with the consent of the people and at their request. There can therefore be no question of constraint.
7. With respect to petition T/PET.5/557, the Administering Authority notes (T/OBS.5/99, section 5) that the difficulties relating to conditions of work which might temporarily have brought the petitioner into conflict with the Chief

Subdivisional Officer at Djoum, an officer of the judicial police and an official responsible for the co-ordination of the technical services in his circonscription, are completely distorted by the petitioner. They have been settled at the local level and within the service.

IV. Petitions from the Union des populations du Cameroun of Bafang (T/PET.5/565) and from the Bafang Centre Local Committee of the UPC (T/PET.5/568)**

1. In a telegram of 5 April 1955 (T/PET.5/565) the Union des populations du Cameroun of Bafang states that the town of Bafang is under military occupation and that several people have been imprisoned for their political opinions. They request immediate intervention by the United Nations to stop the civil war. The petitioners note that the land holdings of many people have been amalgamated by the Administration without warning.
2. The Administering Authority states (T/OBS.5/84, section 2) that it has already submitted its observations on petitions T/PET.5/410, 566, 570, 572, 582, 589, 593 and 594, concerning the incidents of April 1955 in the Bamiléké region (see T/OBS.5/62, section 1, T/OBS.5/76, section 7, T/OBS.5/77, sections 4, 7 and 8, T/OBS.5/80, section 5, and T/OBS.5/86, section 6). The Administering Authority adds that it regrets it is unable to understand the reference to amalgamation and that it cannot therefore comment on the subject.
3. In a letter of 27 March 1955 (T/PET.5/568), the Bafang Centre Local Committee of the UPC complains about the poor management of the sale of land in the urban centre of Bafang and states that the Chief Subdivisional Officer, "with his handful of mercenaries", marks out the land indiscriminately in the absence of its owners; the land application costs 300 francs, the plan of the site, 10,000 francs, and marking out the land, 6,000 francs.
4. The petitioners state that the hut and garden of their comrade, René Kamde, were laid waste because the UPC emblem was displayed at his door. They protest against plurality of office in the administration; the Chief Subdivisional Officer arrested, sentenced to one week's imprisonment and imposed a fine of 12,000 francs on four of their comrades from Fondanti who pointed out to him that work had begun on the direct Bafang road instead of on the one he wanted to build through Badoumja and Banka.

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5. In its observations (T/OBS.5/86, section 7) the Administering Authority states that as the urban centre of Bafang was demarcated in 1929, chief Ngandjui Gaston and the chief of Banka could not have sold or ceded any part of it. Lots cannot be marked out in secret, as the legal procedure requires the presence of the owners of the neighbouring lots. The indigenous inhabitants are free to apply to a surveyor to verify the boundaries of their lots. That would be a private contract, which would not involve the Administration in any way.

6. The Administering Authority adds that the case of Kamde René is absolutely unknown to it and seems to be a pure and simple invention of the petitioner's. Four persons were sentenced to eight days' imprisonment each on 28 March 1955 by the magistrate's court with extended powers at Bafang for impeding the Administering Authority.

V. Petition from the Union des Populations du Cameroun, Dschang Branch
(T/PET.5/588)**

1. In a letter of 27 April 1955 the petitioners state that on 27 September 1954 the Administrator-Mayor of the Subdivision of Dschang summoned their Chairman, Mr. Victor Nantia, an ex-serviceman, and promised that he would obtain satisfaction concerning everything he needed if he stopped being a member of the UPC, which was a movement whose leaders were affiliated with the Communist Party and which was disturbing the country stirring up war everywhere. The Chairman replied that he had found it necessary to belong to the UPC because the Administration had taken no action on the thirty requests he had made since 1946 and that had it not been for the UPC, he would not have been invited to confer with the Administrator-Mayor.

2. The petitioners call for the elimination of the market taxes at the periodic markets because they feel them to be particularly unfair in that merchants who have a load of less than 25 kilogrammes of merchandise must, in addition to paying twenty francs a day in market taxes also pay a third-category personal tax of 1,350 francs and a licence fee of 3,500 francs. They feel that the Administration should have the Subdivision's markets built with the funds thus collected and with the assistance of the African Provident Society.

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3. The petitioners also request that dispensaries be built in the villages of Baleveng and Fogou-Tongo, situated at approximately 25 km. from the town so that pregnant women in those villages, who do not have cars like the wives of the colonialists to take them to the dispensary, would not have to make the long journey.

4. The petitioners state that on 2 March 1955 the Administrator-Mayor of Dschang refused Mr. Jules Poufong membership in the benefit society of the village of Bafou, on the ground that he was a member of the UPC.

5. The petitioners also state that on 13 April 1955 the Administration evicted Stanislas Nguelemo and his seventy-year-old father from their property at Bafou, Ako'o quartier, where they were both born, in order to allot the land to Jony Baleng, a polygamist with fifty wives who has over 5 million francs. The Administration thus seizes the land from the poor and hands it over to the rich. A piece of land at Bafou which Mita Njiague had purchased from a Mr. Foko'o and his sons, and where he had lived for eighteen years, was taken from him by the Administration and has been assigned to the said Foko'o, a capitalist with over 2 million francs. The petitioners add that Foko'o and his sons entered Mita Njiague's home on 13 April, destroyed his property, and killed him with their knives. The man named Teinkeng of Fogou-Tongo, Apang quartier, also lost his life on the same day after his piece of land had been allotted to a polygamist with twenty wives who owns 2 million francs.

VI. Petition from the Local Committee of the Union des populations du Cameroun, March 1955 (T/PET.5/700)**

1. In a letter of 6 July 1955, the petitioners protest against the text of a telegram sent to the United Nations in June from Nkongsamba, over the signature of Sataipoum Hapoy Jean-Baptiste (T/PET.5/624, resolution 1481 (XVII)). They state that Sataipoum is a French citizen who was compelled to sign this telegram drafted by the Administration in order to "pay his debts", and that he has the support of only about forty traditional chiefs and notables, but not that of any planters, officials or businessmen.

2. The petitioners also protest against an article in the newspaper Cameroun Libre, No. 497, stating that "the overwhelming majority of the African people deplore the tragic situation caused by the extremists, who are a small minority"; they ask why the French Government opposes the organization of a popular referendum if it is true that the UPC is only a minority movement in the Cameroons.

3. The petitioners wonder why the right of assembly and the right to freedom of opinion set forth in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights are not respected in the Cameroons.

4. They also protest against the appropriations granted to send notables on unnecessary visits to France or to "pay the assassins" when there is work to be done in the Territory. They state that a circular was sent to all the services under the control of the High Commissioner offering 1 million francs to any person finding the General Secretary of the UPC, 50,000 francs for any other leader and 140 francs for each ordinary member. Lastly, they complain about unemployment, starvation wages, and excessively low prices for local crops, and of the under-development of the Babimbi Subdivision: they have only one dispensary, one hospital, one pharmacy, no maternity hospital, only 24 km. of motor roads, and merely a collection of canoes to cross the Sanaga. (Note by the Secretariat: The question of the economic development of the Babimbi Subdivision has already been dealt with in Trusteeship Council resolutions 983 (XIII) and 1482 (XVII).)

5. The petitioners request that the French Government leave and that an executive committee be set up to prepare plans for a Cameroonian Government in accordance with the Joint Proclamation of 22 April 1955 issued by all Cameroonian progressive movements.

VII. Petition from the Cameroons Reunification Committee (T/PET.5/812)

1. In a cablegram dated 7 October 1955 sent from Bamenda, Cameroons under British administration, the petitioners state that their Committee was constituted on 24 August 1955 by Unions representative of both Cameroonian Territories. They ask the General Assembly, in order that the United Nations Visiting Mission may properly carry out its work, to ensure that political prisoners be liberated; that judicial proceedings be discontinued and that troops

in the Territory under French administration be withdrawn. They are convinced that the Cameroons problem, which has been in abeyance since 1949, will receive definite solution at the tenth session of the General Assembly and that unification and independence will be granted.

2. In its observations (T/OBS.5/81, section 4) the Administering Authority states that full information was provided in the annual report and by the special representative at the seventeenth session on: the proceedings instituted after the incidents of May 1955; the stationing of troops in the Cameroons; and the Territory's political advancement and the Administering Authority's reform plans.

VIII. Petition from the Fédération Démocratique Internationale des Femmes
(T/PET.5/818)

1. In a memorandum of 12 October 1955 the Fédération Démocratique International des Femmes draws the attention of the United Nations to a number of facts revealed by letters from the Union Démocratique des Femmes Camerounaises with regard to the "reign of terror throughout the Cameroons which has been particularly hard on the women and children".

2. According to a letter of 19 May 1955 from the U.D.E.F.E.C., a woman had a miscarriage as a result of the blows she received at Garoua. On 13 May, during a demonstration in support of the leaders of the national organizations, several people were injured by the police; one woman received a blow over the heart, another received a brutal blow in the small of the back, and seventy-three people, including thirty-seven women, were imprisoned.

3. According to a letter of 4 June 1955 from the U.D.E.F.E.C., huts are set alight at night during curfew hours and those who attempt to escape the fire are shot. On 26 May, Marthe Bahida was arrested and horribly tortured; four days later she was deported to the North.

4. A letter of 23 August 1955 from the U.D.E.F.E.C. reports that at Loum, Father Bernard killed a pregnant woman with a rifle bullet on 25 May; that at Ngambé an entire village was destroyed and the population wiped out, and a three-year-old child remained all alone beside the dead bodies of his parents for

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a whole week. The letter further reports that the village of Mombo had been destroyed and its inhabitants massacred; that injured women had been transferred from the hospital at Douala to the prison at Mokolo in North Cameroon; that Monique Kamen had been beaten at Nkongsamba; and that Marie Ybang, editor-manager of the newspaper Femmes Camerounaises, was imprisoned and tortured at Yaoundé because she had gone to Dr. Moumié, Chairman of the Union des Populations du Cameroun, for treatment.

5. A letter of 27 August 1955 from the U.D.E.F.E.C. states that house searches were carried out and also mass arrests, and that a train was stopped at Yaoundé on 18 August by large-scale police operations, which resulted in the arrest of eighteen persons, including one woman.

6. The petitioners state that the U.D.E.F.E.C., in a letter of 28 July 1955, had said that it was disturbed to see certain preparations being made which might prevent the members of the Visiting Mission from carrying out their mission and from receiving an accurate picture of events. The petitioners protest emphatically against all those acts and call for the repeal of the French Government's action dissolving the U.D.E.F.E.C., which "prevents the Cameroonian women from expressing their aspirations and claiming their own and their children's rights". The petitioners state further that this measure of dissolution was enacted without regard for the provisions of the Trusteeship Agreement.

7. In its observations (T/OBS.5/84, section 6) the Administering Authority states that it has no knowledge of any incident at Garoua on 13 May 1955. With regard to blows inflicted on women during a demonstration which never took place, the Administering Authority, in the absence of any indication of the identity of the alleged victims, is unable to take any responsibility for allegations which it regards as fantastic. The petitioner's other allegations are also products of the wildest imagination.

8. The Administering Authority adds that the Special Representative provided the Committee on Petitions and the Trusteeship Council at its seventeenth session with full information about the incidents of May 1955, to which the petitioners' allegations relate. The Administering Authority has no further observations to make on the information about the Cameroons under French Administration which Mrs. Angiola Minella has collected in Berlin.

IX. Petition from Mr. Jacques Ngom, General Secretary of the Union des Syndicats du Cameroun (T/PET.5/840 and Add.1)

1. In a letter of 1 November 1955 (T/PET.5/840), the petitioner transmits to the General Assembly on behalf of the political prisoners at the New-Bell prison, Douala, a memorandum on the incidents of May 1955. He states that the fight of the Cameroonians for unification and independence is not directed by outside powers or based on Marxist doctrine, but is merely due to the awareness of the Cameroonian people and that it is inspired by the provisions of the United Nations Charter and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The Cameroonian people may be passionately anti-colonialist, but they are neither anti-French nor anti-white. He asks the United Nations to request the French Government to release political prisoners, put an end to the legal proceedings instituted as a result of the incidents of May; repeal the Decree dated 13 July 1955 dissolving the U.P.C., the J.D.C. and the U.D.E.F.E.C.; restore public freedoms - which would entail the repeal of the order of 19 February 1955; recall the "persons responsible for the massacres of May 1955"; and consideration of the concrete proposals made by the democratic organizations in the Cameroons for the unification and independence of the country.
2. In a letter of 9 January 1956 (T/PET.5/840/Add.1), the petitioner transmits a second copy of the same memorandum to the Trusteeship Council and states that he, like hundreds of other persons, is still in prison, and that some prisoners have been sentenced to imprisonment for as much as four years "under tyrannical conditions".
3. The Administering Authority states (T/OBS.5/84, section 11) that it has no observations to make on this petition and can provide no information on the present situation of the other signatories, whose names are unknown to it. The principal signatory of this petition, Mr. Jacques Ngom, who was released on parole at the beginning of 1956, was in no way hindered in setting off on a journey which took him to Paris, Peking and Moscow, between 19 April and 31 July.

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X. Petition from the Babon-Batouni Committee of the Union des populations du Cameroun (T/PET.5/884)

1. In a letter of 29 April 1956, the petitioners complain that on 18 April 1956 the Chief of Batouni, named Foudjo, came along with his supporters to destroy the mats and bamboo that had been set aside for the repairs at the Cameroonian school of the Babon Committee. They state that no action was taken on the protest made to the Administrator; instead, the Chief of Batouni returned and, aided by two guards, arrested those who had protested. The petitioners also complain that coffee shrubs were uprooted from the garden by four persons, whose names they give, and the shrubs were planted on the school site; on that day one of those who protested was said to have been beaten till he lost consciousness. The petitioners call for the independence of the Cameroons.
2. In its observations (T/OBS.5/85, section 11) the Administering Authority states that this petition comes from a party which was dissolved by Decree of the French Government on 13 July 1955, following the riots which it organized in May 1955, and that it regrets it is unable to consider a document drawn up by an organization which has been proscribed by law.

XI. Petition from the Fomessat I Local Committee of the Union des populations du Cameroun (T/PET.5/885)

1. In a letter of 28 April 1956 the petitioners protest against the "threats of every kind and acts of repression" said to have been perpetrated by the local authorities since the incidents of May 1955. As an example they cite the case of someone called Nzedam who they state was arrested on 30 March 1956 and brutally done to death; they also cite the case of a Gaston Nyah who was searched on 27 March 1956 on the ground that he was a member of the U.P.C. The petitioners add that all this persecution is due to the legitimate claims of the Cameroonian people for the immediate independence and unification of their country, and that the measure of July 1955 dissolving the progressive movements could have been applied in Madagascar and the Ivory Coast, but never in the Cameroons.

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2. In its observations (T/OBS.5/85, section 12) the Administering Authority states that this petition comes from a party which was dissolved by Decree of the French Government on 13 July 1955, following the riots which that party organized in May 1955, and that it regrets it is unable to consider a document drawn up by an organization which has been proscribed by law.

XII. Petition from the Mbafam Local Committee of the Union des populations du Cameroun (T/PET.5/886)

1. In a letter of 1 May 1956, the petitioners protest that the village of Mbafam has been enduring "threats, oppression and intimidation" since the incidents of May 1955. As an example they cite the case of Mr. Pierre Nganmegni, who was arbitrarily arrested on 10 April 1956, when the village of Mbafam was the scene of a police reconnaissance operation, and he was fined 4,500 francs. On 9 April 1956 Mr. Bonaventure Tchilatcho's home was wilfully broken into. They say that during April seven military vehicles passed through the village in the direction of Baham and threatened the whole population. The petitioners call for the immediate independence and unification of the Cameroons.

2. In its observations (T/OBS.5/85, section 13) the Administering Authority states that this petition comes from a party which was dissolved by Decree of the French Government on 13 July 1955, following the riots which it organized in May 1955, and that it regrets it is unable to consider a document drawn up by an organization which has been proscribed by law.

XIII. Petition from the "Bureau politique de l'Union des populations du Cameroun" (T/PET.5/890)

1. In a telegram sent from Victoria, Cameroons under British administration, on 15 June 1956, the petitioners protest that the Trusteeship Council's attitude towards the persons responsible for the incidents of May 1955 in the Cameroons has had the effect of strengthening the anti-African policy advocated by the Administration. As an example they cite the case of a European gendarme of Bafoussam who, with eight military trucks, fired on the population of Bamougoum, killing two and wounding several, also looting objects and domestic animals of an estimated value of 2 million francs. The petitioners ask the Trusteeship Council

to reconsider its position with respect to fixing responsibility for the incidents of May 1955 in order to avoid still more serious repercussions.

2. In its observations (T/OBS.5/85, section 14) the Administering Authority states that this petition comes from a party which was dissolved by Decree of the French Government on 13 July 1955, following the riots which it organized in May 1955, and that it regrets it is unable to consider a document drawn up by an organization which has been proscribed by law.
