



UNITED NATIONS TRUSTEESHIP COUNCIL



Distr.
LIMITED

T/C.2/L.269
3 January 1957

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Standing Committee on Petitions

PETITIONS CONCERNING THE TRUST TERRITORY OF THE CAMEROONS UNDER FRENCH ADMINISTRATION

Working paper prepared by the Secretariat

Table of Contents

<u>Section:</u>	<u>Petition from:</u>	<u>Symbol in T/PET.5/... Series:</u>	<u>Page:</u>
I.	Local Committee of the UPC of Paris	553)	4
	Local Committee of the UPC of Zoatubsi	576)	
II.	Chairman of the UPC	549 and Add.1 558 559 560 and Add.1 563 570 and Add.1 580 582 587 and 605	5
III.	Vice-Chairman of the UPC	566 572 592 595	11
IV.	Officers of the Executive Committee of the UPC, the Central Bureau of the USCC, the Executive Committee of the JDC and the Officers of UDEFEC	612	14
V.	Chairman of the UPC	613	17
VI.	Local Committee of the UPC of Boga-Mahole	575)	18
	Local Committee of the UPC of Nsimekele	579)	

Table of Contents
(continued)

<u>Section:</u>	<u>Petition from:</u>	<u>Symbol in</u> <u>T/PET.5/...</u> <u>Series:</u>	<u>Page</u>
VII.	Committees of the UPC of Seven-Djongo I, Seven Djongo II and Kassalafam	571)	
	Local Committee of the UPC of Bonelecké-Bonalembé	584)	19
	Mr. Elie Yememo	5/L.62)	
VIII.	Central Committee of the UPC of Bafang	574	21
IX.	Mr. Sala	577	22
X.	Mr. Etienne Njoukam	589)	
	Local Committee of the UPC of Paris	594)	
	Local Committee of the UPC of Ndog-Bat II	597 and Add.1)	
	Central Committee of the UPC of the Bamiléké Region	634)	23
	Association of Cameroonian students, Toulouse branch	640 and Add.1)	
	Madame Gertrude Omog	674)	
	'Felix Moumie' Local Committee of the UPC	T/COM.5/L.117)	
XI.	Executive Committee of the JDC	598	25
XII.	JDC, Mombo Branch	678	26

Introductory Note

This working paper deals with petitions relating to certain incidents and actions involving the leaders or active members of the UPC, JDC and UDEFEC, which took place previous to the events of 25 May 1955. They all originate from the UPC and its branches or from organizations and individuals sharing its views. These petitions were formerly incorporated in document T/C.2/L.216.

* denotes that the acknowledgment of the petition and/or the action documents have been returned unclaimed.

** denotes that the only mailing address available is believed to be inadequate.

I. Petitions from the Local Committee of the UPC of Paris (T/PET.5/553) and the Local Committee of the UPC of Zoatubsi (T/PET.5/576)**

1. In letters dated 9 and 19 March 1955 respectively, the petitioners protest against the legal proceedings taken against Mr. Ruben Um Nyobe, the General-Secretary of the UPC on his return from New York on 5 March 1955, when he was "welcomed by tens of thousands of Cameroonians" at Douala.
2. In its observations on these two petitions (T/OBS.5/74 and 76) the Administering Authority states that following on the incidents at Songmbengué (cf. petition T/PET.5/211 and the observations thereon), which took place in February 1953, Um Nyobe Ruben brought proceedings against Mr. de Gélis, the Chief Subdivisional Officer of the Ngambé Subdivision at that time, alleging breach of close, unlawful dissolution of a meeting, unlawful seizure of documents, etc. The case was dismissed.
3. Mr. de Gélis brought proceedings against Um Nyobe in the Court of First Instance at Yaoundé, under article 373 of the Penal Code, for false accusation.
4. On Um Nyobe's return to the Territory on 5 March 1955, after his journey to New York and Paris, Mr. Cau, the Examining Magistrate of Douala, had a summons to appear served on him with a view to informing him of the complaint which had been laid against him. This procedure was absolutely regular and it is pertinent to note that the UPC immediately seized upon the case for propaganda purposes and attempted to make the active party members believe that the administrative and judicial authorities of the Cameroons were trying to secure Um Nyobe's imprisonment.
5. This affair had its epilogue on 6 and 20 June 1955 in the Court of First Instance at Yaoundé, sitting as a correctional court, which sentenced Um Nyobe in absentia (he having taken flight after the May incidents, for which, since his part in their preparation was manifest, a warrant for his arrest had been issued by the Douala State Counsel on 25 May 1955) to six months' imprisonment and a fine of 50,000 francs.
6. Um Nyobe was welcomed by about 200 people upon his arrival on 5 March 1955. No special police arrangements had been made and the High Commissioner was at Yaoundé on that day.

II. Petitions from the Chairman of the UPC (T/PET.5/549 and Add.1, 558, 559, 560 and Add.1, 563, 570 and Add.1, 580, 582, 587 and 605)

1. In a telegram dated 4 March 1955 (T/PET.5/549), the petitioner states that he "disclaims all responsibility in view of the new combat measures initiated by the French authorities against the UPC". In a second telegram dated 7 March (T/PET.5/549), he states that Um Nyobe, on his arrival by air on 5 March, was greeted by a legal summons from the French authorities to appear on 7 March. The petitioner adds that "the purpose of this legal prosecution is to prevent the General Secretary of the UPC from giving an account of the mission he accomplished at the United Nations". More than 50,000 people held a protest meeting on 6 March "against this act of intimidation". In a third telegram dated 14 March (T/PET.5/549/Add.1), the petitioner states that the Administering Authority "is determined to continue the repressive legal measures which it has begun despite popular censure". The Political Bureau of the UPC accompanied Um Nyobe on his tour to report on his mission and at Yaoundé he was greeted by a summons.

2. In his letter of 17 March (T/PET.5/559), the petitioner alleges that the proceedings against the Political Bureau of the UPC and the Executive Committee of the JDC, and particularly against Um Nyobe and Abel Kingué, are designed not only to deprive the people of any information on the objectives of the International Trusteeship System but also, and above all, to deprive the movements fighting for independence of leadership by passing sentence on their leaders, prior to the elections, so that they will not be eligible to vote or stand for office. He recalls the case of Kingué, the delegate of the JDC, who, before he left the Cameroons to go to the United Nations, was served with a summons to appear before the French Examining Magistrate at Dschang on a matter of which he had no knowledge. He protests against the "abusive practices" of the French Examining Magistrates, who summon people either "in connexion with a matter concerning them", or "as witnesses", or on a rogatory commission. In French law the defendant has no right to counsel in such cases.

3. In his telegram dated 18 March (T/PET.5/558), the petitioner states that Ernest Ouandié, Vice-Chairman of the UPC, was the object of provocative action by a European policeman named Bouteiller, who expressed the French Government's intention of imprisoning all UPC leaders, contrary to the law.

/...

4. In his telegrams of 24 and 28 March 1955 (T/PET.5/560 and Add.1), the petitioner states that at Ngaoundéré UPC meetings have been forbidden and that concessions of active members are being watched by guards.
5. In his telegram of 1 April 1955 (T/PET.5/563) the petitioner asks the United Nations to intervene with the French Government to enable Mr. Ruben Um Nyobe to proceed to Paris.
6. In his letters of 1 and 12 April (T/PET.5/570 and Add.1) the petitioner alleges that the UPC leaders are summoned to court one after the other for offences of opinion, because they represent obstacles to the incorporation of the Cameroons in the French Union as stated in the newspaper "Etoile". Further, he protests against: the tour of the Lamido Yaya Dahirou in the Northern Cameroons for the purpose of indoctrinating the chiefs; the incidents at Mbouda, Bafoussam and Garoua; the repressive measures against patriots organized by Mr. Domergue, the administrator; the action taken by the French authorities in the Cameroons at the Ministry for Overseas France in order to secure the imprisonment of Um Nyobe before the end of April 1955; the fact that with the publication of the "joint letter", "the Catholic clergy have officially entered the political arena"; the statements of Police Inspector Bouteillier and of Mr. Allain before the court at Eseka concerning the striking and imprisoning of Cameroonians who claimed that their forest lands had been stolen from them by colonists.
7. In a telegram dated 20 April 1955 (T/PET.5/580), the petitioner asserts that the French Administration had, on the preceding day, searched the headquarters of the UPC and the houses of the members of the political bureau. The homes of Um Nyobe and Abel Kingué were pillaged and the furniture completely ruined. UPC militants, including the wife of Um Nyobe, were arbitrarily arrested by the police, Um Nyobe's baby being brutally torn from its mother's arms and handed over to the social service. The petitioner says that the reasons for the search were not explained to them.
8. In a telegram dated 26 April 1955 (T/PET.5/582), the petitioner states that Administrator Granier took similar action at Meiganga, to that taken at Bafoussam and provoked an incident during which certain active members of the UPC were seriously injured. He adds that the Administering Authority is opposing in every way the publication of information concerning the United Nations and the presence of the United Nations flag in various UPC committees.

9. In a telegram received at Headquarters on 9 May 1955 (T/PET.5/587), the petitioner states that the French authorities seem determined to disqualify UPC leaders from election; that the UPC is being charged with the publication of false information; that the "local authorities are believed to have military instructions for 13 May, the day on which UPC leaders are to appear before the examining magistrate and that he declines all responsibility for the result".

10. With his petition of 17 May (T/PET.5/605), the petitioner supplies a copy of his telegram of 10 May to the Section Commander of the Cameroonian Guard in charge of the security police in which he informs the Commander that he would be "constrained" to submit the matter to the Minister of National Defence and the United Nations Security Council should the Commander send armed forces against the people accompanying the UPC leaders when they appear before the examining magistrate on 13 May. In the same petition, it is stated that on "12 May, the people had been invited, at a big public meeting, to go in great numbers and in an orderly fashion to the court. On 13 May, the court was packed to the doors before 8 o'clock in the morning". Before beginning the examination proceedings, the magistrate asked the leader of the guards detachment to disperse the crowd. The order was carried out with brutality by a large armed force, estimated by the petitioner to consist of 200 soldiers and as many policemen. There were "forty injured; seventy-three citizens were arrested, including thirty-seven women". "In their 'cell two metres long by 1.80 metres wide and 2 metres high', the thirty-seven women packed like cattle in a wagon were sprinkled with water containing naphthaline." The arrested persons were set free as a result of popular clamour, with the exception of Samuel Ekwe, an ex-serviceman accused of "assaulting the police".

11. In its observations (T/OBS.5/83) on T/PET.5/549 and Add.1, the Administering Authority refers to its observations on T/PET.5/553 (see section I, paragraphs 2-6).

12. Similarly, with regard to T/PET.5/559 and 558, the same reference is made in connexion with the issue of a summons to Mr. Um Nyobe on 5 March 1955. While in connexion with the allegations concerning Mr. Kingué Abel, reference is made to observations (T/OBS.5/72, section 4) wherein it is stated that on 26 October 1954, no attempt was made to arrest Kingué Abel at Dschang and that he was merely being prosecuted for libel, as a result of a letter he had sent to the chief of the Dschang region, accusing a gendarme and a special gendarme of assault and

battery and extortion during an investigation of the death of NGONGANG Pierre (for this case, see the observations (T/OBS.5/36) of the Administering Authority concerning T/PET.5/294). On 4 November 1954, during the preliminary judicial inquiry, a summons to appear was served on KINGUE Abel, after he had disregarded several court orders. Far from being in danger of arrest, KINGUE Abel shortly afterwards obtained his visa for travel to New York (hearing of Cameroons petitioners before the Fourth Committee) from the emigration authorities of the Territory, no objection being raised by the judicial authorities. Regarding the provocative action of Police Inspector Bouteiller, the Administering Authority states (T/OBS.5/76, section 7) that the Police Inspector never made the alleged statements.

13. The Administering Authority states in its observations (T/OBS.5/76) that petitions T/PET.5/560 and Add.1 relate to the banning of a public meeting of the UPC at Ngaoundéré on 19 March 1955. In January 1955, the UPC had set up at Ngaoundéré a small local committee consisting only of a few tradesmen or civil servants from the Southern Cameroons. Several public or private meetings were organized by this committee during the first two months of 1955. The propaganda indulged in at these meetings offended the susceptibilities of the Foulbé peoples of Ngaoundéré, who form, under their Lamido, a very conservative Moslem group. When another UPC meeting was announced for 19 March 1955, the Lamido and the leading Foulbé notables informed the Chief Regional Officer that the Foulbé peoples might react violently against the UPC, and that they could not accept responsibility for the attitude of the Foulbé peoples. As the Chief Regional Officer lacked adequate facilities to maintain order if the UPC propagandists were mishandled by the Foulbés, he decided to ban the proposed meeting. His decision caused no incident and merely resulted in the usual telegrams of protest being dispatched by the UPC.

14. In its observations (T/OBS.5/84) on T/PET.5/563, the Administering Authority states that no obstacles were raised to prevent the departure of Mr. Um Nyobé who, up to the time he was found guilty of having organized armed bands, of attempted murders, of rebellion, of spreading false information and of violence against a policeman, (as the aftermath of the events of May 1955), enjoyed full freedom as guaranteed under French law.

/...

15. In its observations (T/OBS.5/76) relating to petition T/PET.5/570/Add.1, the Administering Authority states that, as the newspaper Etoile is an organ of the UPC, its statements concerning an alleged policy of repression are part of a vast UPC propaganda campaign designed to engender a hostile attitude towards the Administering Authority. Police Inspector Bouteiller never made the statements attributed to him. The same holds for Mr. Allain's statements to the Court of Eseka. The "repression" reported in the Northern Cameroons at Garoua and Ngaoundéré (Administrator Domergue) is a reference to the banning of certain UPC meetings by the Administration owing to the hostile attitude of the people toward the UPC propagandists (see paragraph 13 above). The Administering Authority has no comment to make on the "Joint letter" sent to their congregation by the Cameroonian Bishops.

16. The Administering Authority, in its observations T/OBS.5/77, states with reference to T/PET.5/580 that on 15 April 1955 at Douala, André-Claude Nyobé, a member of the Executive Committee of the UPC, applied to the administrative official in charge of the New-Bell sector for a building permit. Nyobe's tax slip for 1954 was attached to his application as required by the regulations. The slip proved to be a forgery. The examining magistrate of Douala issued letters rogatory ordering the necessary investigations to determine the source of the forged slip and, during the afternoon of 19 April, searches were carried out at the headquarters of the UPC and at the homes of the principal UPC leaders: Um Nyobé, Félix Moumié, Ernest Ouandie, Abel Kingué, Théodore Mayi Matip and André-Claude Nyobé. The UPC headquarters were searched again on the morning of 26 April, likewise under letters rogatory and with the same end in view. No arrests were made. Nevertheless, a certain number of UPC members, including Mrs. Um Nyobé, who had insulted the police inspectors responsible for carrying out the search, were taken to the Central Police Station for an identity check and questioning. They were released immediately afterwards. It should be noted that, as the inspectors were acting under letters rogatory issued by the examining magistrate, the search was absolutely legal. Furthermore, the UPC members who insulted them could have been charged with insulting officers of the administrative branch and brought before the courts on that count. No such action was taken.

17. In its observations (T/OBS.5/79) relating to the incident of 13 May 1955 at the Douala Law Courts, (T/PET.5/587 and 605) the Administering Authority

/...

states that on 13 May 1955, when Mr. Félix Moumié was summoned to appear before the examining magistrate of Douala, the UPC leaders organized a demonstration of 200 to 300 people in front of the Law Courts. The police, who had been detailed to prevent incidents, were set upon by the majority of the demonstrators; however, the demonstrators were driven back without violence. There was only one arrest, that of Samuel Ekoue, who had assaulted police constables Duverger and Menanga. Ekoue was taken to Police Headquarters and brought before the State Council's Department at Douala the following day.

III. Petitions from the Vice-Chairman of the UPC (T/PET.5/566, 572, 592 and 595)

1. In his telegram dated 8 April 1955 (T/PET.5/566), the petitioner states that he and Um Nyobe were accused of slanderous denunciations; that on the previous day mercenaries made an attempt on their lives during a meeting in which they were reporting on their mission to the United Nations and that the public authorities who were present did not intervene.
2. In his telegram of 13 April 1955, (T/PET.5/572) the petitioner alleges that the Administration is trying to drown the national aspirations of the people by acts of repressions, as for example, in the Bamiléké region and at Garoua.
3. In a letter dated 28 April 1955 (T/PET.5/592), the petitioner complains against administrative transfers of UPC members; the legal proceedings taken against Mr. Ruben Um Nyobé; the incidents at Mbouda and Bafoussam and, in referring to searches of 19 April in Douala (see Section II, para.7), adds that many documents were taken away and that the UPC members detained at the police station were discharged the following day as a result of popular protest.
4. In another letter dated 8 May (T/PET.5/595), the petitioner emphasizes that "they were not properly notified of the reasons" for the searches of 19 April, and that "except in rare instances, they were carried out in the absence of the householders or their representatives". He adds that the police officers arrived at the head of several lorry-loads of armed troops and that the 5,000 persons who had assembled before the UPC headquarters sang the Cameroonian national anthem and the Marseillaise when they saw the police. Twenty-five people were arrested. On 26 April, the UPC headquarters and the home of Mr. Abel Kingué were searched "under particularly illegal conditions, while large detachments of armed troops occupied a whole street". The petitioner alludes to the break-up of a meeting on 21 April organized by the USCC (Union des Syndicats Confédérés du Cameroun). He also refers to the incidents at Mbouda and Bafoussam in the Bamiléké region as well as to those at Ngaoundéré and Meiganga. Mention is also made of the "Joint Letter" of the Bishops of the Cameroons and of the "Joint Proclamation" of 23 April 1955.
5. With regard to the complaints conveyed in T/PET.5/572, the Administering Authority, in its observations (T/OBS.5/80, section 5) states that in early April 1955, the Garoua branch of the UPC organized a demonstration for the 10th

of the month in order to strengthen its propaganda activities in the Northern Cameroons. The demonstration was scheduled to last two days and was to have been on an unusually large scale. The regional authorities took every precaution to ensure public order, at the request of the UPC branch itself, which was disturbed at the hostility shown towards it by the Lamido Hayatou, for thirty-five years chief of Garoua, by the notables and by the Foulbé population. The projected demonstration on Sunday, 10 April, did not take place, as the Bamiléké participants, who constituted the majority of the UPC branch, withdrew their support. During that day complete calm prevailed at Garoua and, contrary to the petitioner's assertions, no one was molested.

6. In its observations (T/OBS.5/77, section 6) on T/PET.5/592, the Administering Authority states that it is for the territorial authorities alone to judge, in the light of the needs of the service where officials of the various administrative services of the Cameroons should be posted. It should be noted that, while the petitioner protests against the posting to Douala of four officials who are UPC members, several of these same officials and in particular, Oumandie Ernest, protested when they were posted either to the Northern Cameroons (Moumie Félix, Sendé Jean-Paul, Andjongo Mathias) or to Batouri (Ouandie Ernest). Indeed, every change in the posting of an official who is a UPC member is represented for propaganda purposes as an act of discrimination on political grounds. With regard to the judicial proceedings against Mr. Um Nyobe, the Administering Authority refers to its observations as set out in Section I, paras. 2-6 of this document. Similarly, in connexion with the search of the UPC Headquarters on 19 April 1955, reference is made to the observations set out in Section II, paragraph 16 of this document.

7. In its observations (T/OBS.5/77, section 9) on T/PET.5/595, the Administering Authority again refers to Section II, paragraph 16, regarding the petitioners' complaints about the search on 19 April 1955. In connexion with the meeting on 21 April organized by the USCC, the Administering Authority states that the police had to intervene in the New-Bell quarter because the leaders of the Union des Syndicats Confédérés du Cameroun (including Ngom Jacques, Kohn Emile and Mayea Beck, leaders of the CGT and the UPC) refused to obey the local authorities and disband a meeting that had been organized on the public highway in front of the trade union headquarters (roads in the neighbourhood of the

Kassalafam market place). All meetings on the public highway are categorically prohibited (article 6 of the Act of 30 June 1881 on public meetings and article 1 of the Legislative Decree of 23 October 1935 concerning measures for the maintenance of public order). With regard to the departure of the USCC from the premises which this organization had previously occupied, the Administering Authority points out that since 1945 the USCC had been occupying a former administrative building in extremely poor condition in the Rue Ivy, Douala, which had been leased to it by the regional authorities; and that a new headquarters had been built in the New-Bell Kassalafam quarter to house the offices of all the trade unions represented at Douala. Part of it had been set aside for the USCC. On 12 April 1955 a bailiff served notice on the leaders of the USCC to evacuate the premises in the Rue Ivy immediately, these premises having been found, on expert inspection, to be so dilapidated as to constitute a serious danger to the occupants. The leaders of the USCC complied with the order and moved to the premises offered to them in the new trade union headquarters at Kassalafam. With regard to the other matters mentioned in the petition, reference is made to observations already given in Section II, paragraph 13, concerning the incidents at Ngaoundéré, in Section II, paragraph 15, concerning the Pastoral Letter from the Bishops of the Cameroons to church members and for its observations on the "Joint Proclamation", see Section IV, paragraphs 5-9 of this document.

IV. Petition from the Officers of the Executive Committee of the UPC, the Central Bureau of the USCC, the Executive Committee of the JDC and the Officers of UDEFEC (T/PET.5/612)

1. In a "joint proclamation" signed on 22 April, the Officers of the Executive Committee of the UPC, the Central Bureau of the USCC, the Executive Committee of the JDC and the Officers of the UDEFEC asked for the following measures:

"1. General elections to be held before 1 December 1955 for the purpose of setting up a Constituent National Assembly;

"2. An Executive Board to be established immediately in the form of a Provisional Government responsible for the organization of the general elections;

"3. A United Nations Commission to be set up immediately in the Territory to supervise the installation of the organs of the new Cameroonian State."

2. The petitioners recall that since 1949, the UPC and "the major people's organizations in the Cameroons under French administration and in the Cameroons under British administration have urged the setting of a date for the termination of the period of trusteeship..." In November 1949 the UPC asked that the period of trusteeship should be terminated ten years after 13 December 1946, the date on which the Trusteeship Agreements were concluded. "In December 1949 Somaliland, a former Italian Colony, less developed in every respect than was the Cameroons in December 1946, was placed under the International Trusteeship System for a period of ten years."

3. The petitioners state that "Roland Pré... had every opportunity to carry out a policy consistent with the interests of the Cameroonian people". In a telegram dated 30 December 1954, the Chairman of the UPC "reaffirmed... specific proposals for the unification and independence of the Cameroons" which had been awaiting action in the High Commissioner's office and "assured the French Government's representative of the co-operation of every patriot who adopted a policy of understanding". They claim that the High Commissioner could have established the sub-divisional assemblies which the citizens of the Cameroons demand, proposed the establishment of a legislative assembly and a government council with a Cameroonian majority, encouraged the establishment of

communes de plein exercice in the larger urban centres, guaranteed freedom of assembly, of the press and of association, the free exercise of trade union rights and the fair application of the Labour Code and, to put such a programme into effect, could have "arranged for talks with the leaders of the movements which represent true Cameroonian opinion". Instead, the High Commissioner "chose another course" and the petitioners address a solemn appeal "to the Frenchmen of France and honest Frenchmen living in the Cameroons... to co-operate with us so that our claims may be granted.... Everyone knows that we have not the slightest intention of evicting foreigners from our country. What we want is our independence and we say this aloud because we are sure of our victory."

4. The petitioners claim that "the Cameroonian people has achieved impressive results in connexion with the three points of the programme on which the specific proposals are based": so far as unification is concerned, they have proposed to the two Administering Authorities that a referendum should be held; with regard to political integration, "the Administering Powers have been shown by events that Cameroonians do not wish to be integrated with Nigeria or swallowed up in what is generally called the French Union"; the question of setting a date "has been superseded", the Cameroonian delegates to the ninth session of the General Assembly having "merely proposed the establishment of the organs which are to make the preparations for our independence". The signatories of the manifesto "do not promise independence to the Cameroonian people as certain narrow-minded people might maliciously believe"; their "sole desire is to muster all persons of goodwill in the country for the defence and realization" of their "cherished aspiration to unity and independence". They call on all patriots "to redouble their vigilance in organizing the masses to turn the tide in favour of the immediate unification and independence of the Cameroons"; they are "aware of the status" of the Cameroons under the International Trusteeship System, a status which completely rules out any comparison with Madagascar and Indo-China... by working peacefully... patriots will never become entangled in the meshes of colonialist provocation". Lastly, they say they are "convinced" that they will "attain independence without shedding a single drop of blood".

/...

5. The Administering Authority states in its observations (T/OBS.5/78) that petition T/PET.5/612 bears the title "Joint Proclamation". It is not a real petition dealing with a certain number of specific points, but a collection of proclamations of a political nature, together with some entirely gratuitous assertions in support of the arguments advanced. Bearing these factors in mind, the Administering Authority does not feel that it has any observation to make in reply to this document.
6. It emphasizes, however, the flagrantly untruthful statements which appear on pages 4, 5, 6 and 7 of the petition.
7. The authors of the petition entirely ignore:
 - (a) the Bill introduced in the French Parliament for the creation of a Government Council in the Cameroons and the extension of the powers of the Cameroons Territorial Assembly;
 - (b) the setting up, at the subdivisional and administrative post level, of fifty-eight rural communes throughout the Southern Cameroons, a large number of which are subdivided into communal sections and village councils, and which may also form communal associations on a regional basis for the purpose of carrying out important work in the general interest;
 - (c) the fact that there are thirteen urban communes, three of which, as the result of a recent vote in the French Parliament, are to become communes urbaines de plein exercice, administered by an elected town council and mayor (Douala, Yaoundé and Nkongsamba);
 - (d) the efforts made as the result of joint action by the technical services, basic education services, and modernization units, and by the creation of numerous posts in the Service du paysannat in order to improve agricultural techniques and raise the living standard of the agricultural workers.
8. The Administering Authority would further recall that fundamental freedoms (trade union rights, freedom of association, assembly, speech and the press) are guaranteed to all the inhabitants of the Camercons.
9. The Labour Code is not applied in a discriminatory manner, and many collective labour agreements have been concluded, or are under discussion, between employers and employees in various fields of activity.

/...

V. Petition from the Chairman of the UPC (T/PET.5/613)

1. In a telegram dated 27 May 1955, the petitioner states that the Cameroonian people unanimously adopted on 22 May a national flag with a red background and a natural-colour crab in the centre and requests the United Nations Security Council to secure acceptance of this flag. He states that "The Cameroonian people intend henceforth to be treated on an equal footing with other Governments and request admission to the United Nations as a member".

2. The Administering Authority states in its observations (T/OBS.5/78) that petition T/PET.5/613 is not a petition, but a political declaration. The Administering Authority therefore considers that it need not comment thereon. It emphasizes, however, that, on 27 May 1955, Félix Moumie was under a warrant for arrest issued on 25 May 1955 for participation in the May riots (charge: organizing armed groups, rebellion, etc.).

VI. Petitions from the Local Committee of the UPC of Boga-Mahole (T/PET.5/575)**
and the Local Committee of the UPC of Nsimekele (T/PET.5/579)**

1. In letters dated 27 March 1955, the petitioners complain of the legal proceedings instituted against Fozo'o Ekabe, editor of the newspaper "Etoile", Abel Kingué, Vice-Chairman of the UPC, and Jacques Ngom, member of its Executive Committee, following the publication in the "Etoile" of a press release which voiced the "complaints of the mass of the population regarding the growing reign of terror in the Cameroons". The Nsimekele Committee asks for the abandonment of the legal proceedings instituted against the leaders of the national independence movements and the unconditional release of their comrades Batuid Panhu, Sende Amos etc., imprisoned at Eséka.
2. In its observations (T/OBS.5.76), the Administering Authority states that in response to a complaint by the High Commissioner dated 21 January 1955, proceedings were begun on 26 January 1955, by the Douala State Counsel's Department, against Abel Kingué, Jacques Ngom and Ekabé Fozo'o, for disseminating false information likely to lead to a breach of the peace.
3. In issue No. 6, page 4, of the newspaper Etoile, of which Ekabé Fozo'o was the Managing Director, Abel Kingué and Jacques Ngom had published an article under their joint signature, stating inter alia: "What the colonialists do not dare to say is that terrorists bands are being formed under the leadership of a few settlers for the purpose of continuing in Douala and elsewhere murders manifestly directed at the leaders of the UPC and the most conspicuous of the active trade unionists."
4. The article referred in particular to the death of Charles Mahop and Bekolo Belinga. The Administering Authority has already submitted observations on this matter in connexion with petition T/PET.5/463 (see T/OBS.5/72 and resolutions 1478 (XVII) and 1479 (XVII)).
5. Moreover, on 26 January 1955, the Correctional Court of Appeals upheld a judgement given on 27 October 1954 by the Court of First Instance of Ebolowa, sentencing Ekabé Fozo'o to two months' imprisonment for contempt of the Administrative Court.

VII. Petitions from the Committees of the UPC of Seven-Djongo I, Seven-Djongo II and Kassalafam (T/PET/5/571,** the Local Committee of the UPC of Bonelecké-Bonalembé (T/PET.5/584** and from Mr. Elie Yememo (T/PET.5/L.62)**

1. These three petitions relate, in the main, to the legal proceedings against leaders of the UPC.
2. In their motion of 1 April 1955, the UPC Committees of Seven-Djongo I and II and Kassalafam complain about the "series of illegal proceedings against the leaders of the progressive Cameroonian movements", for example the summons issued against Abel Kingué, the managing director of La Voix du Cameroun, "concerning the payment of the press censorship fee and a calumnious accusation based on an administrative letter which has nothing to do with the legal branch". The petitioners also "protest to the very utmost" against the statements of representatives of the French Government at the United Nations, who have declared "again and again that freedom of speech, of association and even of the press is strictly respected in the Cameroons under French Administration", as well as against the difficulties placed in the way of Mr. Um Nyobé's departure to Paris.
3. In its letter dated 15 April (T/PET.5/584), the Bonelecké-Bonalembé (Douala) local committee of the UPC states that "at 5 p.m. on 7 March 1955 the Cameroonian people demonstrated their sympathy with their delegate by accompanying him in large numbers to the law courts". The petitioners protest against the imprisonment of Fozo'o Ekabé at Marcua for having upheld "the rights of a citizen after severe colonialist repressive measures had been taken" and against the "40,000 francs for a licence for the newspaper La Voix du Cameroun" which Abel Kingué was required to pay. It strongly urges that Um Nyobe's passport should be visaed "in order that he may go to Paris to carry out the mission with which he has been entrusted by the political officers of the UPC". The rest of the petition deals with "services rendered to the Cameroons by France": the bridge over the Wouri, "a stem of plantains for which an indigenous inhabitant of the town would have to pay 100 francs costs him 150 francs once it has crossed the bridge"; the hospitals, with their racial discrimination, "very mediocre food", and shortage of beds, medicine, and doctors; education, "two classes in one classroom and one student teacher for every three classes".

/...

4. Mr. Elie Yememo (T/PET.5/L.62) also protests against: the legal proceedings taken against Félix Moumié, Abel Kingué, Ernest Ouandié and Martin Singa; the increase in the number of police stations instead of in the number of schools, hospitals and dispensaries; economic difficulties.
5. In its observations (T/OBS.5/84 and 79), the Administering Authority refers, in connexion with the judicial proceedings against Mr. Um Nyobé, to the statement set out in Section I, paragraphs 2-6 of this document. Similarly, with regard to Mr. Fozo'o Ekabé, it refers to its observations set out in Section VI, paragraphs 2-5, at the same time pointing out that Mr. Fozo'o Ekabé was imprisoned at Ebolowa and not at Maroua as alleged by the petitioners.
6. With regard to the complaints contained in T/PET.5/584, concerning the bridge over the Wouri river, the hospitals and education, the Administering Authority refers to the annual report for 1955 wherein will be found all the information on the economic and social progress of the Territory.
7. In its observations (T/OBS.5/79) relating to petition T/PET.5/L.62, the Administering Authority states, with regard to the proceedings against Félix Moumié and Martin Singa, that two actions were brought on 28 March 1955 by the Examining Magistrate of the Court of First Instance at Maroua, following complaints made on 10 March 1955 by Mr. Georgy, former Chief of the Diamaré Region.
 - (a) The first action, for libel and public insults uttered against an administrative officer of the Republic, involves an article which appeared in issue No. 8 of the periodical Etoile under the title "The Political Temperature of the Cameroons", signed by Félix Moumié.
 - (b) The second action, also for libel and public insults uttered against an administrative officer of the Republic, involves two articles which appeared in issue No. 2 of the periodical Lumière, of which Martin Singa was the editor. Proceedings were instituted against Jean-Paul Sende and Conrad Bene, the signatories of the two articles.
8. The Administering Authority points out that any economic difficulties felt in the Cameroons at the beginning of 1955 are linked with the fall in cocoa prices on the international market and not with any alleged policy of oppression. Steps have been taken to mitigate as far as possible the effects of the fluctuations in prices at the producer level.

VIII. Petition from the Central Committee of the UPC of Bafang (T/PET.5/574)

1. In their petition dated 5 April 1955 the authors complain that the Chief Regional Officer and the Mayor of Bafang "have set the populations of Banka and Badoumja against each other in order to unleash civil war at Bafang" and have arrested four comrades of Fondanti, who were subsequently sentenced to eight days' imprisonment and a fine of 12,000 francs. They state that on 18 and 24 November 1954, administration lorries were used to convey mercenaries from Bafoussam to Bafang "for the purposes of civil war" and that members of the delegation of persons belonging to the Bafang Subdivision were arrested "and unlawfully convicted". They also accuse these same authorities of seizing "the peoples' lands at Mbafoam in order to reward the perpetrators of their crimes" and of "marking out lands... without consulting the occupants" and of appointing the Court assessors "under irregular conditions". They complain finally that the Committee's "registered correspondence" is always returned to it.

2. The Administering Authority states in its observations (T/OBS.5/76) that it has already submitted observations on the land disputes between the Banka and Badoumja chiefdoms in connexion with petition T/PET.5/371 (see T/C.2/L.194) and on the incidents of November 1954 at Bafang, in connexion with petition T/PET.5/410 (see T/C.2/L.192). As the petitioner does not give the names of the four active members from Fondati allegedly arrested by Mr. Orabona, the Administering Authority is unable to submit any observations on this matter. The action taken in connexion with the appointment of assessors to the Customary Courts of Bafang is in accordance with the regulations in force. The same applies to the marking out of land in the Urban Centre.

/...

IX. Petition from Mr. Sala (T/PET.5/577)

1. In a telegram dated 12 April, the petitioner states that a price has been put on the head of the UPC militants at Garoua, where the "colonialists organize" the natives to "shed blood". After "many accidents", the UPC members were forbidden to leave their huts, their quarter was "surrounded by mercenaries" and they were not allowed to hoist the "UN flag".

2. In its observations (T/OBS.5/77) the Administering Authority refers to its observations which are set out in Section III, paragraph 5 of this document.

X. Petitions from Mr. Etienne Njoukam (T/PET.5/589)**; the Local Committee of the UPC of Paris (T/PET.5/594); the Local Committee of the UPC of Ndog-Bat II (T/PET.5/597 and Add.1); the Central Committee of the UPC of the Bamiléké Region (T/PET.5/634); the Association of Cameroonian students, Toulouse branch (T/PET.5/640 and Add.1; Madame Gertrude Omog (T/PET.5/674) and the 'Felix Moumie' Local Committee of the UPC (T/COM.5/L.117)**

1. In the main, all these seven petitions relate to the incidents in the Adamaoua Region.
2. In his letter of 27 April 1955, Mr. Etienne Njoukam refers to the incidents on 8 April at Mbouda, at Bafoussam and at Meiganga, at which latter two places he alleges that the High Commissioner held secret meetings. He also protests against the searching of the UPC headquarters at Douala on 19 and 26 April.
3. The incidents in the Bamiléké region, at Meiganga and the searching of the UPC headquarters are mentioned by the Local Committee of the UPC of Paris in their letter of 12 May 1955. These incidents are also mentioned, without details being given, by the Ndog-Bat II and other local committees of the UPC (T/PET.5/597 and Add.1); the Bamiléké Region Central Committee of the UPC (T/PET.5/634) and the "Felix Moumie" Local Committee of the UPC (T/COM.5/L.117).
4. The "Félix Moumié" Local Committee further complains of the fact that the Minister of Colonies and the President of the French National Assembly opened the Wouri bridge, "which, built less than a year ago, has already dropped three millimetres", instead of making an inquiry into the incidents at Meiganga and Bafoussam, of the searches which have become the order of the day, of the policy of pitting Africans against one another, of the freedom granted to those who are attempting the lives of people who demand the unification and independence of their country and of the prospect of integration in the French Union.
5. In its petition of 2 June 1955 (T/PET.5/640), the Toulouse branch of the Association of Cameroonian Students protests against the punitive expeditions organized against the people of Meiganga, Ngaoundéré, Nanga-Eboko and other centres "whose offence was that of being keenly aware of the international status of their country and of therefore having raised the flag of the United Nations".

/...

6. In her petition of 14 June (T/PET.5/674), Mrs Gertrude Cmog states that the incident of 23 April at Meiganga "as it happened, ... occurred after the meeting held by Roland Pré and his administrators from the North at Ngaoundéré, where there had been much discussion of a great plan to have the appointed chiefs of that sector of the Territory sign petitions calling for the division of the Cameroons, with the North to be annexed to the Chad".
7. The Administering Authority emphasized in its observations (T/OBS.5/77) on petition T/PET.5/589 that the High Commissioner held no meetings at Bafoussam and Meiganga. The petitioner is undoubtedly referring to the conferences which the High Commissioner held at Dschang and Ngaoundéré in March and April with the chiefs from the western and northern Cameroons to study political, economic and social questions relating to their districts.
8. With regard to the incidents at Ngaoundéré, the Administering Authority refers to its observations set out in Section II, paragraph 13 of this document.
9. Similarly, with regard to the searches carried out at the UPC headquarters in Douala on 19 and 26 April 1955, the Administering Authority refers to its observations set out in Section II, paragraph 16 of this document.
10. The observations of the Administering Authority regarding the Joint Proclamation of 22 April 1955, mentioned in T/PET.5/597 and Add.1, 634 and T/COM.5/L.117, are set out in Section IV, paragraphs 5-9 of this document.
11. The Administering Authority points out in its observations (T/OBS.5/78) on petition T/PET.5/674 that Mrs. Gertrude Cmog has absconded following an order to appear issued against her by the State Counsel at Nkongsamba for rebellion, incitement to revolt, violence and contempt of court.

XI. Petition from the Executive Committee of the JDC (T/PET.5/598)**

1. The petitioners state in their telegram dated 25 May 1955 that on 22 May a flying squad of gendarmes and men of the Wouri detachment of the Cameroonian guard under the orders of European NCO's wantonly ransacked the dwelling of Mpaye, the Chairman of the JDC. They state that "Mpaye brought action against these crimes", and that in order to "conceal" them the "Colonialist authorities" were "harrassing Mpaye" and had organized "military repression... to terrorize" the peaceful Cameroonian people.

2. The Administering Authority states in its observations, T/OBS.5/71/Add.1 that the allegations regarding the destruction of the dwelling of Mr. Hyancinthe Mpaye on 22 May 1955 are completely false. A meeting of the UPC, at which Mr. Mpaye spoke, was held on 22 May between 3.15 and 5.30 p.m. in the Koumassi quarter of Douala on the subject of the incidents which had just taken place at Mbanga. At the same time, the first meeting of the Front National Camerounais was taking place at the house of Mr. Vincent Mbock. At 5.30 p.m. when the UPC meeting at Koumassi was over, a group of UPC members, Mr. Mpaye among them, made an attack on the Front National Camerounais meeting. A full account of these incidents, including all those which occurred in the Mungo and Sanaga-Maritime regions and also at Douala and Yaoundé towards the end of May 1955, are given in T/OBS.5/71, section I.

XII. Petition from the JDC Momo Branch (T/PET.5/678)*

1. In their petition of 12 June 1955, the petitioners recapitulate several of the incidents which preceded the events of 25 May 1955 and ask for a mission of inquiry to investigate them. In particular, they mention (a) the legal proceedings against Messrs. Um Nyobé and Kingué Abel; (b) the search of the UPC head office and houses of UPC leaders carried out on 5 November 1954 at Douala; (c) the dispersal of a UPC meeting on the public highway on 7 November 1954; (d) the deaths of Messrs. Charles Mahop and Belinga Ekobo in November 1954; (e) the incidents in the Bamiléké and Adamoua regions; (f) the incidents before the Law Courts at Doula on 13 May 1955; (g) the accident at the opening of the Wouri bridge which resulted in the death of a woman bystander and finally (h) the events of 25-27 May 1955.
2. In its observations T/OBS.5/79, section 1, the Administering Authority refers to previous observations which it has submitted concerning the incidents mentioned by the petitioners. For example, with respect to those indicated above, its observations on (a) are given in T/OBS.5/72 and 74 and are set out in Section I, paragraphs 2-6 and Section II, paragraph 12 of this document; on (b) are given in T/OBS.5/47 (see also resolution 1346 (XVI)); on (c) are given in T/OBS.5/52 (see also resolution 1478 (XVII)); on (d) are given in T/OBS.5/72, 66 and 66/Add.1 (see resolutions 1478 (XVII) and 1479 (XVII)); on (e) are set out in Section II, paragraph 13 and Section X, paragraph 7 of this document; and on (f) are set out in Section II, paragraph 17 of this document.
3. With regard to (g), the Administering Authority states that on Sunday, 15 May 1955, when the Wouri bridge was officially opened in the presence of the Minister for Overseas France, who was representing the French Government, lorry No. 1794 CA belonging to the gendarmerie, which was crossing the New-Bell quarter at 3 p.m. knocked down and killed a woman called Ngo Yock Sarah, aged 55, at the corner of the Avenue des Palmiers and the road to the foreign cemetery. The gendarmerie could not carry out its investigation until 5.30 p.m. because of the attitude of some UPC members who, as soon as they heard of the accident, stirred up the crowd by starting the rumour that Ngo Yock Sarah had been killed deliberately; they attacked the investigating officials with bottles and stones, and carried off the victim's body in order to prevent any examination being made by the police surgeon.
4. With regard to (h) a full account of these events is given in T/OBS.5/71 (see also resolution 1481 (XVII)).