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PETITIONS CONCERNING THE TRUST TERRITORY OF THE CAMERCONS UNDER FRENCH ADMINISTRATION

144th Report of the Standing Committee on Petitions

Chairman: Mr. Rikhi JAIPAL (India)

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1. At its 293rd, 294th and 321st meetings on 10 and 11 January and 7 February 1956, the Standing Committee on Petitions, composed of the representatives of Australia, Belgium, France, Haiti, India, and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, examined the petitions concerning the Trust Territory of the Cameroons under French administration which are listed in the preceding table of contents.
2. Mr. Raymond Lefèvre 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 the resolutions contained in this report.

I. Petition from Mr. Ismaila Monssapngué (T/PET.5/404)

1. The petitioner complains that the Société des Planteurs du Fouban occupied his land at Koutié, near Fouban, without consulting him or the Sultan at the time, Njoya, who was the traditional representative of the country. Besides at that time no one had the right to criticize Europeans.
2. He asks for 11 million francs CFA compensation and the restitution of his land, on which there are huts and many trees.
3. The Administering Authority states in its observations (T/OBS.5/65, section 2) that the land occupied by the Société des Planteurs du Fouban was transferred to it in accordance with the regular procedure for granting concessions. No objections were made after the legal announcement and the holding of the palavers. The palavers were held in December 1926 and in June 1929. The land in question was entirely uninhabited.
4. The petition was examined and discussed at the 293rd and 321st meetings of the Standing Committee (documents T/C.2/SR.293 and 321).
5. The special representative of the Administering Authority gave an explanation of the decrees governing concessions. He stated that concessions are granted in accordance with procedures which provide for prior consultation with the local communities and a careful investigation of all rights and claims advanced. Once a concession has been finally confirmed, the concessionaire becomes the legal owner of the land and a new claim can be considered only by the judicial courts. If the petitioner wishes to pursue his claim he can file a complaint with the Court of First Instance at Fouban. He can obtain all information relating to the concession and to his legal rights from the Land Registry Office (Bureau des domaines).
6. At the 321st meeting, the representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics proposed that the Council should request the Administering Authority to take the necessary steps to meet the legitimate rights of the petitioner to his land. This proposal was rejected by 1 vote to 3 with 2 abstentions.
7. At its 321st meeting, the Committee adopted by 4 votes to none with 2 abstentions draft resolution I, annexed to the present report, which it recommends that the Council adopt.

II. Petition from Mr. Bikim-Bi-Ngwang (T/PET.5/408)

1. The petitioner claims that the Song-Ngwang land at Mouanda (Eséka Subdivision) belongs to him in its entirety and by customary law. However, Chief Henri Matip, who has for long been in illegal possession of the land, obtained a title to it without consulting him and with the assistance of the local authorities. He states that he has submitted complaints, which have so far remained unanswered.
2. The petition asks either that his property be restored or that he be paid compensation of 3 million francs, since the piece of land is two kilometres long and two kilometres broad.
3. In its observations (T/OBS.5/65, section 5), the Administering Authority declares that the land claimed by Mr. Bikim-Bi-Ngwang, 48 hectares in area, was the subject of an investigation of title carried out on behalf of Mr. Henri Matip in accordance with the usual procedure. Mr. Bikim had the same opportunities as anyone else to state his claim during the proceedings. As no objections were raised either during the palavers or at the time of the award, the court of second instance at Edéa recognized Mr. Henri Matip's claim at a hearing on 17 April 1946. The decision of the court of second instance at Edéa has now become final.
4. The petition was examined and discussed at the 293rd and 321st meetings of the Standing Committee (documents T/C.2/SR.293 and 321).
5. The special representative of the Administering Authority expressed the belief that it was open to the petitioner to file a complaint with the competent customary or French court, which would, however, consider his claim only if he could produce new evidence which was not presented at the time of the award.
6. At its 321st meeting, the Committee adopted by 4 votes to none with 2 abstentions draft resolution II, annexed to the present report, which it recommends that the Council adopt.

III. Petitions from the Local Committee of the Union des Populations du Cameroun of Batcha (T/PET.5/414) and from the Population of Batcha (T/PET.5/435)

1. The authors of T/PET.5/414 complain that the Department of Water and Forestry tears up their cash crops, such as coffee trees, from their ancestral land at Batcha village (Bafang Subdivision) and imposes severe penalties. They give the names of three of their comrades, who have so suffered during a period of two years and who have been heavily fined. The population of the village had never been informed that the land had been classified.
2. The petitioners protest in general, that classification of land as forest takes place without consultation with persons enjoying customary rights and without the consent of the indigenous inhabitants.
3. In its observations (T/OBS.5/63, section 1), the Administering Authority states that the three complainants, like all the inhabitants of their village, were informed of the classification of the forest. They were sentenced by the Court of First Instance, not by the Department of Water and Forests, for clearing classified forest. They appealed and the normal judicial procedure is in progress.
4. The authors of T/PET.5/435 repeat these complaints. They add that
 - (a) an old man of ninety years of age, who is the father of 100 children, has now been completely deprived of his ancestral property;
 - (b) the Catholic Mission is now claiming as its property land temporarily transferred to it to build a church.
5. The petitions were examined and discussed at the 293rd and 321st meetings of the Standing Committee (documents T/C.2/SR.293 and 321).
6. The special representative of the Administering Authority stated that the forest at Batcha was classified in 1947 in accordance with the procedure set forth in the decree of 1946 which provides for prior consultation with the local inhabitants, the hearing of appeals and the payment of indemnities to persons who suffer loss of their customary rights. The boundaries of the area to be classified was made known to the people of Batcha at the time of classification and no opposition was made by them. It is therefore incorrect to state that the people of Batcha were not informed or that they were not consulted. The three persons referred to in the petition appealed their fines and their appeals were rejected by the court; one of the petitioners, Mr. Happi, was subsequently fined again for a second offence.

7. In the opinion of the Administering Authority, the village of Batcha possesses adequate cultivable land and the area classified as forest is not considered to be cultivable on a permanent basis.

8. The special representative believed that the complaint of the petitioners stemmed from the widespread opposition to forest classification among the indigenous inhabitants as a result of which the Administering Authority had been unable to carry out further classification in 1948. At the present time the policy of the Administering Authority is to emphasize reforestation, particularly of hill tops, for purposes of soil and water conservation. A decree of May 1955 permits the establishment of protected zones in which cultivation may continue subject to certain conditions.

9. The Administering Authority emphasizes that the preservation of forests and reforestation measures have as their purpose to protect the land and are in the interests of the local inhabitants. The area at Batcha is a reforestation area and certain crops planted clandestinely have had to be torn up to protect the trees.

10. The old man referred to in the petition was not dispossessed of his land. The persons fined for illegal clearing of forest land were members of the family of which he is the head.

11. The land possessed by the Catholic Mission is a very small area which was ceded to it in accordance with the established procedure for concessions which provides for prior consultations with the local community.

12. At the 321st meeting, the representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics proposed that the Administering Authority should ensure that in the classification of forests the rights and interests of the indigenous inhabitants are not infringed. This proposal was rejected by 13 votes to 12 with one abstention.

13. At its 321st meeting, the Committee adopted by 3 votes to none with 3 abstentions draft resolutions III A and III B, annexed to the present report, which it recommends that the Council adopt.

IV. Petition from Mr. Maurice Kamkuigne (T/PET.5/423)

1. The petitioner complains that "a politician named Dzode François" has evicted him from the property which the latter had given him in 1948 in reimbursement for certain of the petitioner's possessions. The petitioner built a house with a stone foundation on the property and made many improvements. In February 1954, Mr. Dzode sued the petitioner before the Court of First Instance which awarded the petitioner his land and 5,000 francs damages, but Mr. Dzode appealed to the Court of Second Instance, where, in connivance with the officials, he won the case.
2. The petitioner also complains that in Bansoa, where he was born, persons known as Muleaklet and Visant-Magnet looted a large number of eucalyptus and fruit trees from the property which they had given him.
3. Finally, the petitioner, who is secretary of the UPC at Bansoa, urges vigilance in the struggle for independence and the organization of a referendum before Christmas.
4. The petition was examined and discussed at the 293rd and 321st meetings of the Standing Committee (documents T/C.2/SR.293 and 321).
5. The special representative of the Administering Authority stated that the petitioner had never been the Secretary of the UPC at Bansoa, that exhaustive enquiries by the Administration had failed to identify him and that his name was not to be found in the population census of the area. The dispute to which he refers had not been examined by any court in the Bamiléké area and Mr. Dzode François had stated that he knew nothing about it.
6. The special representative further stated that, if the petitioner's complaint was real, it was open to him to submit his case to the competent court in the Territory.
7. At the 321st meeting, the representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics proposed that the Council request the petitioners to supply additional information in connexion with his complaints. This proposal failed to be adopted because, after following the procedure laid down in rule 38 of the rules of procedure, the votes for and against the proposal were equal.
8. At its 321st meeting, the Committee adopted by 4 votes to 1 with 1 abstention draft resolution IV, annexed to the present report, which it recommends that the Council adopt.

V. Petition from the population of the village of Fonkonankem (T/PET.5/436)

1. The petitioners state that they are the nine notables of the village. The name of Mr. Jean Tchuagne Zodotcho appears on the petition as representative of these notables.
2. The petitioners complain that they have received notice of the sale of their land by the village chief to a Mr. Edouard Pobsinger for a price of 68,000 francs, of which the Chief received 34,000 francs for 3,400 square metres. They protest vigorously against the sale of the land to foreigners.
3. In its observations (T/OBS.5/66, section 4), the Administering Authority declares that it does not seem possible to regard the signatory as the representative of the notables and population of the village or even of the nine indigenous inhabitants, whose names he does not give. The Administering Authority is informing the signatory of the legal remedies open to him if his petition has any basis in fact.
4. The petition was examined and discussed at the 293rd and 321st meetings of the Standing Committee (documents T/C.2/SR.293 and 321).
5. The special representative of the Administering Authority stated that the payment made was a customary indemnity and that, in such transactions, the indemnity was distributed in accordance with the wishes of the community. It was not the practice of indigenous communities to inform the Administration of such customary transactions.
6. The special representative further stated that if there was an irregularity in the transaction, the proper course for the petitioners was to file a complaint with the competent judicial court.
7. At the 321st meeting, the representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics proposed that the Council should recommend to the Administering Authority that it carry out an investigation of the complaints of the petitioners and that it take steps to return the land to the indigenous inhabitants of the Territory. This proposal failed to be adopted because, after following the procedure laid down in rule 38 of the rules of procedure, the votes for and against the proposal were equal.
8. At its 321st meeting, the Committee adopted by 4 votes to 1 with 1 abstention draft resolution V, annexed to the present report, which it recommends that the Council adopt.

VI. Petition from members of the Executive Committee of the UPC (T/PET.5/439)

1. The petitioners state that the indigenous population of Ngwandang, Mbanga Subdivision, Moungo Region, whose traditional chief and qualified representative according to custom, is Douma Dipanda, a notable, is threatened with partial expropriation of land which traditionally belongs to it, situated between kilometre marks 89 and 85 on the Bonaberi-Nkongsamba railway. The S.P.N.P., a colonial company the Director of which is a certain Mr. Mignon, is said to have settled on the land in question on its own initiative. It would appear that this Mr. Mignon, a French settler, no doubt feeling himself all-powerful, last August had the audacity to proceed to a large-scale destruction of plants on the above-mentioned land belonging to the indigenous population of Ngwandang.
2. The petitioners consider that this would, if confirmed, be one more example of the policy, disguised under the name of "vacant and ownerless land", of stealing the indigenous inhabitants' land for the benefit of the settlers. They protest against this policy and demand that the indigenous population of Ngwandang should be left in peace on its lands.
3. In its observations (T/OBS.5/68, section 7), the Administering Authority states that the S.P.N.P. Company is installed on a former German property which was leased to it. Certain indigenous inhabitants have occupied the southern part of this concession. Proceedings for the retrocession of this land by the company are now pending. The population is thus not threatened with expropriation or eviction.
4. The petition was examined and discussed at the 293rd and 321st meetings of the Standing Committee (document T/C.2/SR.293 and 321).
5. The special representative of the Administering Authority stated that the facts adduced in the petition were incorrect. The land in question was formerly a German property which had been only partly exploited by its owner with the result that local inhabitants had occupied the non-exploited portion. Mr. Mignon occupies the property on a short-term lease and has no permanent rights of occupation. At the present time the question of the future ownership of the property is under consideration and it is probable that the non-exploited portion, at least, will be restored to ownership by the local community. Thus the local population is not threatened with expropriation.

6. At the 321st meeting, the representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics proposed that the Council should recommend that the Administering Authority take all necessary steps to secure the legitimate right of the indigenous inhabitants to the land. This proposal was rejected by 3 votes to 2 with 1 abstention.

7. At its 321st meeting, the Committee adopted by 3 votes to none with 3 abstentions draft resolution VI, annexed to the present report, which it recommends that the Council adopt.

VII. Petition from Mr. Boniface Tague (T/PET.5/442)

1. The petitioner states that on 25 June 1949, under contract No. 125 concluded in the presence of the Colonial Administrator, Mr. Robert Ngondo of Poola Village, Nkongsamba Subdivision, leased to the petitioner his land at Poola, Nkongsamba Subdivision for thirty years. The petitioner paid Mr. Robert Ngondo the sum of four thousand five hundred francs.
2. The petitioner further states that he planted the land with 1,500 coffee plants, 800 banana plants, 60 mango plants, 40 avocado plants, 5 plum trees, maize, sugar cane, manioc, macabo etc. At a certain point Mr. Pelletier, a pharmacist at Nkongsamba, seized the land, uprooted the aforementioned plants and destroyed the food crops and is in illegal occupation of the land. The petitioner laid the case before the Nkongsamba Magistrate's Court, which ordered him to forfeit his entire property without compensation. On learning of this decision he took the case to the Yaoundé Ratification Chamber (Chambre d'Homologation), which in its turn ordered the repayment of the 4,500 francs he had paid for the land under his agreement with the vendor.
3. The petitioner requests the restitution of the land arbitrarily occupied by Mr. Pelletier with the complicity of the competent authority of the Territory and the payment of damages in respect of the complete destruction of his plantation.
4. In addition the petitioner asks for the immediate unification and independence of the Cameroons.
5. In its observations (T/OBS.5/67, section 1), the Administering Authority states that the land claimed by Mr. Boniface Tague is part of a parcel of land classified as the private property of the Territory in 1942 and was acquired by Mr. Pelletier. The adjudication, which followed the regular procedure, was confirmed by an order of 19 December 1949. It would seem that Mr. Boniface Tague was the victim of the dishonesty of Mr. Robert Ngando, who sold him land to which he can have had no right whatsoever, as his name does not even appear on the list of former owners who received compensation when the land was classified in 1942.
6. The Administering Authority further states that Mr. Tague did not bring the matter before the court until 1952 and on 12 August of that year he obtained

reimbursement of the price he had paid for the land, 4,500 francs, with interest. The court was unable to award damages to Mr. Tague. The investigation showed that he did not take possession of the land before it was occupied by Mr. Pelletier in 1951 and that he did not come forward while it was so occupied. It therefore seems difficult to determine what loss Mr. Boniface Tague could have suffered.

7. The petition was examined and discussed at the 294th and 321st meetings of the Standing Committee (T/C.2/SR.294 and 321).

8. The special representative of the Administering Authority stated that the land had been purchased by Mr. Pelletier in 1949 and that therefore the petitioner was the victim of a fraud perpetrated by Mr. Ngando.

9. The court had not awarded damages to the petitioner because there was no evidence that he had suffered loss. Prior to 1951, when Mr. Pelletier occupied it, the land had been used by the petitioner only to cultivate annual crops such as maize. It was not true that he had planted it with perennial crops.

10. If the petitioner could show that he had suffered loss as a result of the fraud, he could prosecute Mr. Ngando further for damages. He had not filed a complaint, however, with the competent court.

11. At its 321st meeting, the Committee adopted by 5 votes to none with 1 abstention draft resolution VII, annexed to the present report, which it recommends that the Council adopt.

VIII. Petition from Mr. Joseph Sango (T/PET.5/447)

1. The petitioner stated that several years ago he bought a piece of land in the name of his friend Ngamga, built a shop and also paid for a licence. His friend, who worked at Douala, bought there goods ordered by the petitioner, but the latter supplied the capital and did the bulk of the work. In October 1951, Ngamga died suddenly and the Chief of Bangangté became guardian of his children and claimed possession of the business. The petitioner argues that there is no justification for this claim.
2. The petitioner states that the case was heard on 23 September 1952 by the Court of First Instance at Bangangté, when the verdict was that he should remove the goods and leave the land to the Chief. He appealed to the Court of Second Instance at Dschang, where he lost the case completely, and then to the Ratification Chamber with no result.
3. The petitioner also complains that the Chief, as a result of the above-mentioned dispute, expropriated four fields of bamboo plants, raffia palms, a plantation of six thousand coffee plants and three hundred stands of cane belonging to him.
4. The petitioner requests the immediate total restoration of the property illegally seized from him by the Chief. He states that he has been unemployed since that time with many children.
5. In its observations (T/OBS.5/67, section 2) the Administering Authority states on the death of Ngamga, the petitioner claimed to have been the partner of the deceased, and not his employee. The Court of First Instance, which considered the case, partially recognized the rights of Joseph Sango and ordered the succession to be shared. When the two parties appealed, the Court of Second Instance annulled that judgement and declared the son of Ngamga to be the sole heir. The judgement of the Court of Second Instance was subsequently rescinded and annulled as defective on 18 January 1955, after the case had been heard on 6 July 1954, and deferred for additional information. The case will therefore be reheard by the Court of Second Instance, which will pass judgement.
6. The Administering Authority states, with respect to the complaints about the seizure of plantations, that the raffia plantations, of which there are two,

not four, were allotted to Sango by the Chief, who, being the trustee of the land, withdrew them from him as he is authorized to do by custom. The coffee plantation, on the other hand, is owned by Sango and has not been taken from him.

7. The petition was examined and discussed at the 294th and 321st meetings of the Standing Committee (documents T/C.2/SR.294 and 321).

8. The special representative of the Administering Authority stated that the appeal of the two parties to the dispute was still under consideration by the Court of Second Instance which would pass judgement.

9. With regard to the petitioner's complaints concerning the seizure of his land by the chief, the special representative stated that customary law permitted a chief to withdraw land which he had allotted to a member of his community without the payment of compensation.

10. At the 321st meeting, the representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics proposed that the Council should recommend to the Administering Authority that it take steps to return to the petitioner the land which was taken away from him. This proposal was rejected by 3 votes to 1 with 2 abstentions.

11. At its 321st meeting, the Committee adopted by 5 votes to none with 1 abstention draft resolution VIII, annexed to the present report, which it recommends that the Council adopt.

Annex: Draft resolutions proposed by the Committee

I. Petition from Mr. Ismaila Monssapngué (T/PET.5/404)

The Trusteeship Council,

Having examined the petition from Mr. Ismaila Monssapngué concerning the Cameroons under French administration in consultation with France as the Administering Authority concerned (T/PET.5/404, T/OBS.5/65, T/L.628),

1. Draws the attention of the petitioner to the observations of the Administering Authority and to the statement of its special representative, in particular that he can obtain all information concerning the concession and his legal rights from the Land Registry Office (Bureau des domaines) and, if he so desires, he may file a complaint with the Court of First Instance at Foumban.

II. Petition from Mr. Bikim-Bi-Ngwang (T/PET.5/408)

The Trusteeship Council,

Having examined the petition from Mr. Bikim-Bi-Ngwang concerning the Cameroons under French administration in consultation with France as the Administering Authority concerned (T/PET.5/408, T/OBS.5/65, T/L.628),

1. Draws the attention of the petitioner to the observations of the Administering Authority and to the statement of its special representative, in particular that:

(a) The land was awarded to Mr. Henri Matip in accordance with the legal procedure, which provides opportunity for the submission of claims, but no claim was advanced by the petitioner at that time.

2. Suggests to the petitioner that, if he wishes to pursue his claim, he should seek advice concerning the courses of action which may be open to him from the Land Registry Office.

III A. Petition from the Local Committee of the "Union des Populations du Cameroun", Branch of Batcha (T/PET.5/414)

The Trusteeship Council,

Having examined the petition from the Local Committee of the "Union des Populations du Cameroun" of Batcha concerning the Cameroons under French administration in consultation with France as the Administering Authority concerned (T/PET.5/414, T/OBS.5/63, T/L.628),

1. Takes note of the observations of the Administering Authority and to the statements of its special representative, in particular that:
 - (a) The forest was classified in accordance with the established procedure which provides for prior consultation with the local communities and therefore the people of Batcha were informed of the classification;
 - (b) The classification of forests and the reforestation measures being undertaken by the Administering Authority have as their purpose to protect the land and are therefore in the interests of the local inhabitants;
 - (c) The land in the possession of the Catholic Mission is a small area ceded to it after consultation with the local community;
2. Recalls the recommendations adopted by the Trusteeship Council at its thirteenth and fifteenth sessions in connexion with the annual report of the Administering Authority, in which it referred to the dangers of deforestation and soil erosion in the Territory;
3. Endorses the reforestation policy of the Administering Authority;
4. Reiterates its hope that the population of the Territory will co-operate with the Administering Authority in the carrying out of these measures;
5. Takes note of the assurance given by the Administering Authority that in classifying forests it will continue to take account of the interests of the populations concerned.

III B. Petition from the Population of Batcha (T/PET.5/435)

The Trusteeship Council,

Having examined the petition from the Population of Batcha concerning the Cameroons under French administration in consultation with France as the Administering Authority concerned (T/PET.5/435, T/OBS.5/63, T/L.628),

1. Draws the attention of the petitioners to the observations of the Administering Authority and to the statements of its special representative, in particular that:

- (a) The forest was classified in accordance with the established procedure which provides for prior consultation with the local communities and therefore the people of Batcha were informed of the classification;
- (b) The classification of forests and the reforestation measures being undertaken by the Administering Authority have as their purpose to protect the land and are therefore in the interests of the local inhabitants;
- (c) The land in the possession of the Catholic Mission is a small area ceded to it after consultation with the local community;

- 2. Recalls the recommendations adopted by the Trusteeship Council at its thirteenth and fifteenth sessions in connexion with the annual report of the Administering Authority in which it referred to the dangers of deforestation and soil erosion in the Territory;
- 3. Endorses the reforestation policy of the Administering Authority;
- 4. Reiterates its hope that the population of the Territory will co-operate with the Administering Authority in the carrying out of these measures;
- 5. Takes note of the assurance given by the Administering Authority that in classifying forests it will continue to take account of the interests of the populations concerned.

IV. Petition from Mr. Maurice Kamkuigne (T/PET.5/423)

The Trusteeship Council,

Having examined the petition from Mr. Maurice Kamkuigne concerning the Cameroons under French administration in consultation with France as the Administering Authority concerned (T/PET.5/423, T/OBS.5/72, T/L.628),

1. Draws the attention of the petitioner to the statement of the special representative of the Administering Authority;
2. Suggests to the petitioner that, if he wishes to pursue his complaints, he should make himself known to the Authorities.

V. Petition from the population of the village of Fonkonankem (T/PET.5/436)

The Trusteeship Council,

Having examined the petition from the population of the village of Fonkonankem concerning the Cameroons under French administration in consultation with France as the Administering Authority concerned (T/PET.5/436, T/OBS.5/66, T/L.628),

1. Takes note of the observations of the Administering Authority and the statement of its special representative, in particular that the Administering Authority is informing the signatory of the petition of the legal remedies open to him;

2. Recommends that the Administering Authority should make it compulsory to report transactions of the kind referred to in the petition to the local Administrator, so that the Administration may intervene in appropriate cases.

VI. Petition from members of the Executive Committee of the UPC (T/PET.5/439)

The Trusteeship Council,

Having examined the petition from members of the Executive Committee of the UPC concerning the Cameroons under French administration in consultation with France as the Administering Authority concerned (T/PET.5/439, T/OBS.5/68, T/L.628),

1. Takes note of the observations of the Administering Authority and the statement of its special representative, in particular that proceedings for retrocession of part of the land to the local community are now pending;
2. Expresses its confidence that, in deciding the future ownership of the land, the Administering Authority will continue to keep in mind the interests of the local population.

VII. Petition from Mr. Boniface Tague (T/PET.5/442)

The Trusteeship Council,

Having examined the petition from Mr. Boniface Tague concerning the Cameroons under French administration in consultation with France as the Administering Authority concerned (T/PET.5/442, T/OBS.5/67, T/L.628);

Draws the attention of the petitioner to the observations of the Administering Authority and to the statement of its special representative, in particular that if the petitioner can show that he has suffered material loss, it is open to him to pursue his claim for damages against Mr. Ngando in the competent court of the Territory.

VIII. Petition from Mr. Joseph Sango (T/PET.5/447)

The Trusteeship Council,

Having examined the petition from Mr. Joseph Sango concerning the Cameroons under French administration in consultation with France as the Administering Authority concerned (T/PET.5/447, T/OBS.5/67, T/L.628),

1. Draws the attention of the petitioner to the observations of the Administering Authority and to the statement of its special representative;
 2. Decides, in respect of the shop and the goods, that for the time being, since the case is under examination by the competent court in the Territory, no further action by the Council is called for;
 3. Notes the statement of the Special Representative in respect of the petitioner's land claim that he may, if he wishes, take his case to the customary courts.
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