

UNITED NATIONS  
TRUSTEESHIP  
COUNCIL



GENERAL

T/494

3 March 1950

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Sixth Session  
Item 5 of the Agenda

Dual Distribution

PETITION FROM THE BALONG NATIVE AUTHORITY (1)  
CONCERNING THE CAMEROONS UNDER BRITISH  
ADMINISTRATION

Observations of the Administering Authority

Note by the Secretariat: The following observations were communicated to the Secretariat on 3 March 1950 by the representative of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland on the Trusteeship Council.

1. The petitioners belong to the group of four Balong villages lying within the Victoria Division. Since only one of the signatories is a village head and the signature of the president of the Council does not appear the petition can scarcely be regarded as a pronouncement by the Balong Native Authority. The population of the group is estimated as being about 600 Balongs enormously outnumbered by some 1,800 immigrants whom they have permitted to settle among them.
2. It is the case that the formidable natural obstacle of the Mungo River, and thus the Anglo-French frontier, divides the Balong Clan into fourteen villages on the British side and, it is understood, nine on the French side.

(1) T/PET.4/15

The remarks in paragraphs 51-54 of the Administering Authority's Observations on Document T/PET.4/16 apply and the river must be a much more important feature in Balong life than the frontier.

3. Any land shortage among the Balong is due to the overwhelming amount of immigration which has been permitted by the Balong. The fact that these communities could not be studied in detail by the officer investigating the Bakweri land position does not, of course, mean that the Balong will be excluded from the benefits of the Administration's policy set out in the Administering Authority's Observations in connection with Document T/PET.4/3.

4. It is difficult to see how the Forestry Department can be encroaching on native rights, except perhaps by the necessary measure of preventing the felling of first class trees without permit. All organized exploitation of timber in this neighbourhood is done by the Native Administration sawmill at Banga, whose activities are confined to the Kumba side of the divisional boundary and whose profits accrue to the Kumba Native Treasury.

5. In their seventh paragraph petitioners appear to be advocating white settlement, which the Administration has hitherto prevented in the long-term interests of the indigenous people. The question of technical education is discussed in paragraphs 12-16 of the Administering Authority's Observations on Document T/PET.4/16.