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PETITIONS CONCERNING THE CAMERCONS UNDER FRENCH ADMINISTRATION

Observations of the French Government as
Administering Authority

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1. Petition from Mr. Jonas Ngande-Fonku (T/PET.5/482)

No sentence was imposed on Mr. Ngande-Fonku Jonas in 1951 or in the following years. The only sentence recorded one month's imprisonment and a fine of 650 francs dates back to 1946 and was imposed for persistent breaches of the coffee growing regulations (failure to obtain authorization before establishing a plantation).

There is no scheduled forest in the chiefdom of Babouantou. As no major highway passes through the chiefdom there has been no demarcation of protected strips. There have been no proceedings in this group for forest offences since 1951. One application for permission to cut trees of protected species was made in 1954, by a certain Mr. Tafo. The latter subsequently gave up his permit because one of the trees he was going to fell "was inhabited by a sorcerer who spoke".

There is an official school for seventy-eight pupils at Babouantou. Sick people go for treatment to Bafang (15 kilometres) or to the French Protestant Mission hospital at Bangwa (25 kilometres).

2. Petition from some members of the Union des populations du Cameroun of the Bamiléké region (T/PET.5/692)

The Administering Authority dismisses as completely unfounded the petitioners' charges regarding the "shootings" alleged to have taken place after Mr. Teitgen's visit.

The Administering Authority dismisses as completely unfounded the petitioners' allegations that after the May incidents members of the UPC were forced to give up their UPC cards and pay a fine of at least 10,000 francs (the UPC was dissolved by decree on 13 July 1955).

The incidents at Bafang (Bamiléké region) in November 1954, were dealt with in the observations on petitions T/PET.5/398, 403 and 410.^{1/}

1/ Note by the Secretariat: See T/OBS.5/62.

3. Petition from Mr. André-Victor Pohla (T/PET.5/733)
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Each of the above petitions emanates from a party which was dissolved by French Government decree of 13 July 1955.

The Administering Authority regrets that it cannot give consideration to a document drawn up by an organization banned by statutory authority.

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

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.

5. Petition from the Syndicate of Retail Merchants, Craftsmen and Carriers
of the Cameroons (T/FET.5/835)

The elections against which the petitioner protests were the elections of 2 January 1956 to elect members of the National Assembly.

The elections were not confined to the Territory of the Cameroons but were held in all the Territories and circonscriptions represented in the National Assembly.

6. Petition from Mr. Elie Yememo (T/PET.5/843)

The Administering Authority has no particular observation to make in this connexion.

7. Petition from Mr. Isaac Tchoumba Ngouankeu T(PET.5/846)

The petitioner, a clerk in the judicial service, has never been arrested or prosecuted, but was brought before the disciplinary board for his "unsatisfactory service".

Proceedings were suspended to enable him to stand as a candidate in the legislative elections held on 2 January 1956.

He was not elected. He aggravated his case by failing to resume his duties at the appointed time, i.e., after the completion of the roll, and was censured, but not dismissed.

8. Petition from Mr. Ambroise-Marie Oyono (T/PET.5/865)

The Territory's budget and the administrative regulations do not permit the Government to pay the salaries of the employees of private undertakings, even if they are missionaries.

Subsidies to private educational establishments are discussed and voted on by the Territorial Assembly which has an indigenous majority.

9. Petition from the "La Cité" school, of Mbalmayo (T/PET.5/866)

A full explanation of the position as regards the award of scholarships for higher education is given in the annual report.

Scholarships are personal, and are awarded on the basis of the record of the individual students concerned.

The Administering Authority cannot consider awarding scholarships to schools in the Territory but is ready to consider individual candidates on their merits.
