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PETITION FROM MR. ANDRE SOUP KOUAM CONCERNING  
THE CAMEROONS UNDER FRENCH ADMINISTRATION

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SOUP KOUAM ANDRE, Chairman  
of the Bapi (Baham) Central Committee of the UPC  
Bafoussam Subdivision, Bamiliké Region  
KAMERUN

COMPLAINT

To: The Secretary-General of the United Nations, New York

Sir,

I wish to submit a complaint against the French Government in the persons of the Chief Regional Officer of Bamiliké, and the Chief of the Bafoussam Subdivision on the following grounds:

On 22 November 1956 they placed themselves at the head of a military convoy consisting of seventeen lorries under the command of a lieutenant. They arrived at our market place and surrounded it at about 10.30. Thousands of persons were seriously wounded by blows from rifle butts including women and children who protested against the arbitrary arrest of the head of the household. More than a dozen people were killed. At 4. p.m. the colonialists managed to seize our brave popular Chief, who was taken to Yaoundé via Dschang. His replacement, Tégui Jean-Marie, who was foisted on the population by the French Administration has authority to burn down the concessions of those who do not obey his orders. Thus on 1 December 1956, after obtaining the consent of his superiors, he sent a gang of thugs to burn down my concession consisting of 10 houses, one of which, a storeyed house, was used as the office of a UPC local committee and contained the following articles:

	<u>Francs</u>
80 chairs, 6 tables, 4 cupboards	250,000
Cash	800,000
5 plank beds and bedding	25,000
5 water buckets, 3 bowls, 40 plates	6,000
2 paraffin lamps, 5 dozen spoons, 6 tablecloths	15,000
6 aprons, 3 alarm clocks, 1 wrist watch	8,000
1 typewriter, 3 bottles of ink, 20 fountain pens	22,000
20 ordinary pencils, a packet of pens, 10 penholders	550
20 gabardine jackets, 24 pairs of shorts, 6 hats	37,000
12 pairs of shoes, 6 pairs of sandals, 6 berets	24,000
16 undergarments, 20 shirts, 6 pairs of glasses	7,600
16 ties, 12 towels, 12 bars of soap	2,800

Second house:

2 plank beds and bedding	21,000
1 table, 10 chairs, 4 armchairs, 1 combination chair-desk	23,000
<u>2 cupboards containing: cash</u>	400,000
6 undergarmets, 10 shirts, 8 pairs of shorts	4,000
6 pairs of trousers, 3 pairs of shoes, 3 pairs of gym shoes	12,000
6 pairs of stockings, 4 pairs of underpants, 4 belts, 4 jackets	11,200
2 suits, 3 pullovers, 3 ties, one wrist watch, one household medicine chest, 5 hats	220,400
1 helmet, 2 berets, 1 tropical helmet, 1 cap	1,500
1 coffee mill, 1 coffee huller, 20 kg of fat	60,000
40 tethered goats, 60 chickens, 3 ducks, 100 packets of cola	175,000
20 bags of maize, 3 bage of ground-nuts, 2 bags of beans	55,000
6 bags of potatoes, 20 native slab-cakes	28,000
2 ivory ornaments, 10 large native loin-cloths	90,000
	<u>2,402,050</u>

TOTIE Jean Dieunedort:

	<u>Francs</u>
Cash	40,000
40 packets of cola, 2 gabardine suits	66,000
1 chest containing: 3 pairs of shoes, 1 coat, 2 blankets, 10 undervests, 8 pairs of trousers, 10 pairs of shorts	35,000

KOUAM Thomas:

Cash	30,000
1 pair of shoes	3,000

TAMO Kamdem:

Cash	15,000
3 pairs of trousers, 2 vests, 3 undervests, 2 helmets	9,700
1 hat, 2 pairs of shoes, 3 pairs of gym shoes, 1 pair of boots	9,500
40 bags of cola, 2 large native loin-cloths	88,000
1 English bicycle, 1 flint lighter	28,000

KAMDEM Justine (first year secondary school student)

1 book-case	20,000
5 skirts, 10 dresses, 6 head scarves	8,000
1 bed and bedding	6,000

PEUPEU (my first wife)-hut burned down:

5 bamboo beds and mattresses	8,000
15 bags of maize, 4 bags of ground-nuts, 3 bags of potatoes, 15 chickens, 12 goggles, 3 buckets	45,600
10 gourds, 1 basket of peppers, 1 drum of oil	22,000
1 bag of salt, 4 children's stools, 1 demijohn	4,250
2 ivory bracelets, seedlings of several varieties destroyed by fire	79,000

TCHOULUA Suzanne (my second wife)-hut burned down:

2 beds and bedding, 12 dresses, 7 headscarves	10,500
3 saucepans, 12 earthenware pots, 1 umbrella	4,000
15 chickens, 1 pig	11,600

	<u>Francs</u>
3 mortars, 1 hand operated sewing machine	17,600
1 hurrican lamp, 5 bags of maize, 2 bags of ground-nuts	25,700
3 bags of beans, 8 litres of red wine	6,800
<u>MAZUGAING Monique</u> (my third wife)-hut burned down:	
3 beds and bedding, total value	6,800
1 sewing machine	15,000
2 saucepans, 2 bowls, 15 plates, 10 dresses	9,750
10 headscarves, 3 umbrellas, 12 chickens	9,000
1 hurricane lamp, 6 earthenware pots, 3 mortars	10,560
<u>UDEFEK office burned down:</u>	
200 cards	20,000
National subscriptions	50,000
1 community chest	10,000
8 chairs, 2 wooden benches, 2 tables, 1 cupboard	19,000
1 register, a number of files, 10 packets of stationery	6,700
Total value of the house	200,000
1 typewriter	17,000
	<hr/> 3,372,110

Since the above date, though I am the head of a family, it has been quite impossible for me to live with my wives and children and I am ignorant of their whereabouts.

I have the honour to request our independence.

Maquis, 7 December 1956

Copies to:

The Secretary-General of the United Nations

The High Commissioner at Ydé

The Procureur of the French Republic

The Chief of the Bamlikié Region UPC headquarters

Counsel for the Defence

Files