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PETITION FROM MR. LAZARE LAVOISIER LIPEM CONCERNING THE  
CAMERCONS UNDER FRENCH ADMINISTRATION

(Circulated in accordance with rule 85, paragraph 2, and supplementary rule F  
of the rules of procedure for the Trusteeship Council)

Douala, 25 January 1954

From: LIPEM Lazare Lavoisier, P.O. Box 613, Douala

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

Sir,

I have the honour to remind you of my previous letter of 30 December 1953, to which I have received no reply, and to submit the following for your consideration:

I believe and am certain that the United Nations was established to maintain world peace and to secure for all peoples national INDEPENDENCE in conditions of peace. But it is absurd to believe, as BISSECK Guillaume said on 21 January 1954 at his poorly-attended meeting, that the members of the Fourth Committee were convinced by his statement and especially by a passage in which he said that "the UNIFICATION of the two Cameroons and INDEPENDENCE cannot be achieved by means of oral claims". I would ask you to let me know as soon as possible what attitude the United Nations has taken towards this statement and whether it is true that we cannot achieve unification and independence by means of oral claims. He insisted that, without an army, we should not set ourselves unattainable objectives. He described the Cameroonian national claims of UNIFICATION and INDEPENDENCE as unattainable objectives, despite such instruments as the UNITED NATIONS CHARTER and the TRUSTEESHIP AGREEMENTS, which recognize our right to self-determination. He also said that the UPC is not complying with its charter. But I think that to assert one's country's right to sovereignty does not mean betraying the interests of France; for no one can own to being my slave if he wishes to become my friend.

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I noticed at that meeting that he does not know what is meant by UNIFICATION, since he said that, before the Cameroons are united, the tribes of each part of the Cameroons must first unite. BISSECK should be asked whether, when he left BIKOK, his native village of the BIKOK tribe, to come to the town of EDEA and the BAKOKO tribe, he carried a passport and was searched from head to foot. But, on the other hand, was he not searched when entering the British Cameroons? Was he not asked for his passport? When the question of abolishing this arbitrary FRONTIER is raised, BISSECK speaks of relations between tribes, for which no proof of identity is required. This shows his inferior knowledge of political matters.

I would take this opportunity of drawing the attention of the United Nations to the need to regard as unfounded any statement opposed to the unification and independence of the Cameroons. All those who support such statements in their letters and speeches to the United Nations are mere lackeys and hirelings of the French Government.

The local colonialist Government, being unable to find any valid arguments to prolong its domination over the Cameroonian people, is trying to mislead you, through deputies, senators, members of its puppet movements and the so-called traditional chiefs, into believing that the Cameroonians do not wish for UNIFICATION and INDEPENDENCE of their country. I would challenge you to find a prisoner who, when told he has suffered enough and can now be released and go home, would reply, "No, I like PRISON." Thus, no Cameroonian is against the unification and independence of our country. I agree fully and absolutely with the statements of Mr. Ruben UM NYOBE, the only true spokesman of the Cameroonian people.

Hoping that on this occasion the Trusteeship Council will prepare a report on the Cameroonian problem for submission to the ninth session of the United Nations General Assembly, in order to ensure the unification and independence of our country, I have the honour to be etc.

(signed) LIPEM

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