

UNITED NATIONS TRUSTEESHIP COUNCIL



GENERAL T/PET.6/219/Add.3 17 July 1951

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

29

PETITION FROM NANA BUACHI, ASAFOHENE OF JASIKAN CONCERNING TOGOLAND UNDER BRITISH ADMINISTRATION

Note by the Secretary-General: In accordance with rule 85 and supplementary rule F of the rules of procedure for the Trusteeship Council, the Secretary-General has the honour to transmit to the members of the Trusteeship Council and to the Government of Italy as the Administering Authority of the Trust Territory of Somaliland, a communication dated 6 July 1951 from Nana Buachi, Asafohene of Jasikan concerning the Trust Territory of Togoland under British administration. This communication forms a third supplement to the petition set forth in document T/PET.6/219.

COPY

NANA BUACHI,
ASAFOHENE,
jasikan-Buem.
British Togoland.
6th July, 1951.

The Secretary-General, United Nations, Lake Success.

Dear Sir.

PETITION OF NANA BUACHI OF JASIKAN CONCERNING TOGOLAND UNDER BRITISH ADMINISTRATION. (T/PET.6/219).

I beg to confirm my cable reading as follows:

"FROM INVESTIGATION CONDUCTED HERE 18TH JUNE BY GOVERNOR'S SECRETARY AND ASSISTANT DISTRICT IT HAS BEEN BROUGHT TO LIGHT THAT REGISTRATIONS COMPLAINED OF WERE ACTUALLY FORGERY STOP MINUTES FOLLOW STOP TOGOLAND KEENLY AWAIT YOUR DECLARATION TERRITORIES UNLFIED WITH INDEPENDENCE."

I beg to forward for necessary action copy of the minutes of the meeting of Mr. Thomas, Governor's Secretary, Accra, and the Assistant District Commissioner, Kpandu, with Nana Brantuo the Chief of Jasikan, myself and people of Jasikan. Copy of the letter sent to the District Commissioner by Nana Brantua the Chief of Jasikan, referred to in the minutes was sent to you under cover of my letter of the 1st of June, 1951.

You will note from the copy of the minutes I am now sending that the Assistant District Commissioner promised to let me have copy of the minutes taken by Mr. Thomas the Governor's Secretary. You will further note that I asked for this copy as I feared the accuracy of their version, due to previous experience. Up to the time of writing it has not been received and I have today telegraphed the Assistant District Commissioner as follows:

"COPY MINUTES TAKEN MEETING JASIKAN 18TH JUNE BY THOMAS NOT YET RECEIVED AS YOU PROMISED PLEASE EXPEDITE."

A previous letter sent to him has not been replied.

I cannot see why the copy has not been received by me up to date. I am therefore sending copy of the minutes of the meeting made by me with the request that you kindly cause this matter to be put before the Trusteeship Council at its present session, for which many thanks.

· Kindly acknowledge receipt and oblige.

Yours faithfully,

NANA KWADJO BOAKYE X ASAFCHENE JASIKAN Mark.

W/W/Mk.

(Signed) ANDSTIPKWA CKPEY
Secretary, T.Y.A.
Jasikan Buem.

Copy to:

- 1. The Secretary of State for the Colonies, London.
- 2. His Excellency the Governor, thro! (1) Mr. Thomas, Governors Secretary, Accra, and (ii) Asst. D.C., Kpandu.
- 3. Togo Union, Hohoe.
- 4. Togoland Congress, Borada.
- 5. Mr. S. G. Antor, New York.
- 6. Nana Brantuo, Jasikan.

JASIKAN, ON MONDAY THE 18TH DAY OF JUNE, 1951.
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF MR. THOMAS, GOVERNOR'S SECRETARY,
ACCRA, AND MR. WEATHERBOURNE, ASSISTANT DISTRICT COMMISSIONER,
KPANDU, WITH THE CHIEF AND PEOPLE OF JASIKAN, BUEM STATE.

PRESENT: 1. Mr. Thomas, Governor's Secretary, Accra

2. Mr. Weatherbourne, Assistant District Commissioner, Kpandu.

3. Mr. Apreku, State Secretary, Buem State, (Jasikan).

4. Nana Brantuo, Chief of Jasikan-Buem.

5. Nana Boatchi, Asafohene of Jasikan and 2nd in command to the Chief.

6. Sarikyi Zongo (Chief of Zongo Community in Jasikan).

- 7. People of the Zongo Community of Jasikan.
- 8. Mr. A. K. Boatchi of Jasikan.
- 9. Mr. S. K. Kwami of Jasikan.
- 10. Mr. Salomon Adjei, Chief Farmer of Jasikan.
- 11. The Mankrado of Jasikan-Buem.
- 12. Mr. Adzabri, Teacher in Jasikan.
- 13. Mr. J. K. Akrofie, Teacher in Jasikan.
- 14. Mr. Bogobri of Jasikan Zongo.
- 15. Mr. Benhard Agidzi of Jasikan.
- 16. OTHERS

Interpreter: Mr. Apreku, the State Secretary interpreted until the arrival of Mr. Akrofie, Teacher, who took up.

ASST. D. C.: Asked Nana Brantuo the Chief of Jasikan whether his people agreed or actually signed the Registration Forms.

NANA BRANTUO, CHIEF OF JASIKAN: When the papers (Registration Forms) came I beat gong-gong but very few people came to the meeting. The few people agreed to register. Later the majority of the people came to say that they did not agree for Registration and election to be conducted in the town. Nana Boatchi and the people of the town summoned me to Nana Buatchi's house. They told me they did not agree to register. Nana Buatchi asked me what time I started to complete the Registration Forms and I told him that when the people of the town were not turning up I asked that the Forms should be completed from names from the Tax-Payers List in the State Office. Nana Buatchi and the people asked me to produce those forms already filled in. When the papers were brought and people saw that their names have been completed on the forms they seized the papers from me. As the people did not agree before I instructed that the Forms should be filled in with their names I know

I was at fault and I was asked to pacify my subjects in the Native Customary way with 4 (four) bottles Schnapps. Mr. Apreku the State Secretary also pacified the people with 4 bottles Schnapps and the two Teachers who assisted in completing the forms from the Tax-Payers List also pacified the people of the town with one bottle schnapps each, as customary punishment as what have been done is against the people of the town. The people then asked me to write to the District Commissioner that they have not agreed to the Registration and election to be conducted in the town; I wrote the letter and I gave a copy to Nana Buachi.

- ASST, DISTRICT COMMISSIONER: What you have just said is about what was done on November 20th, 1951. What about the registrations done on the 8th of November, 1951.
- NANA BRANTUO, CHIEF OF JASIKAN: In that case Mr. Apreku went round with the papers; whether the people agreed or not I cannot tell.
- ASST. DISTRICT COMMISSIONER: (To Mr. Abreku): Did you go round by your own power or by some body's instructions.
- MR. APREKU: By the Chief's instructions.
- NANA BRANTUO, CHIEF OF JASIKAN: I am the Chief of the town; if Mr. Apreku said so, then I accept the responsibility.
- THE ASSISTANT DISTRICT COMMISSIONER THEN READ OUT THE NAMES OF THE PEOPLE WHO WERE PUT DOWN AS HAVING REGISTERED ON THE 8TH OF NOVEMBER, 1951. SOME WERE ABSENT. THE FOLLOWING WERE PRESENT:

MR. SALOMON ADJEI, CHIEF FARMER OF JASIKAN. MR. BENHARD AGIDZI OF JASIKAN. SARIKYI ZONGO (CHIEF OF ZONGO COMMUNITY IN JASIKAN).

- ASSISTANT DISTRICT COMMISSIONER (To Mr. Salomon Adjei): Did you agree before your name was signed on the Registration Form?
- SALOMON ADJEI (rather furious): I did not even know that my name was signed on that day as having registered. I did not give my consent to any body.
- THE ASST. DISTRICT COMMISSIONER PUT THE SAME QUESTION TO MR. BENHARD AGIDZI AND THE SARIKYI ZONGO (CHIEF OF JASIKAN ZONGO COMMUNITY):
- BENHARD AGIDZI: I had no idea that my name was signed on that day as having registered. At one time the Chief called me to the Court House and said in the presence of Mr. Kofi Madjigbe that all the town had

registered; that even the Chief Farmer had understood the matter and had registered; he informed me that my name had been signed too, therefore, as having registered. I told him that if the whole town had registered then it did not matter that he had written my name also, Later I found out that the Chief had deceived me.

- SARIKYI ZONGO (CHIEF OF JASIKAN ZONGO COMMUNITY): I was at Lome in French
 Togoland when registration was conducted in Jasikan. Mr. Bogobri was
 acting as Head of the Zongo Community while I was away. I did not
 register.
- ASST. DISTRICT COMMISSIONER then asked Mr. Bogobri whether any papers were brought to him for signature at any meeting.
- BOGOBRI: Yes, Mr. Apreku the State Secretary brought some papers and called the whole Zongo Community to a meeting and asked that every one should call his name to be written on/papers. We all told him we would not register and Mr. Apreku left. Later I came to the town where I met the Chief at Okyiame Walter's house. The Chief asked me why we refused to write our names on the papers. I told him that we did not like it that was why we refused. The Chief then told me that it did not matter; that he knew the method he would adopt to get our names that he would get them from the Tax-Payers' register. Therefore if any body is alleged to have registered from the Zongo Community I am convinced the name is taken from the Tax-Payers' register. If you think what I am saying is not true here are the people from the Zongo Community; you can ask them.
- ASST. D.C. asked the Zonge Community and they unanimously replied before the whole gathering that they did not know that there names were written on the forms; that they did not give their consent to any body.
- ASST. DISTR. COLTR. (speaking to Nana Buachi): asked whether because the people did not agree to have their names signed on the forms that he seized the forms.
- NANA BUACHI: Before I answer you this question I should like to know who you are and your duty.

ASST. D.C.: I am the Assistant District Commissioner at Kpandu.

NANA BUACHI: What about the man writing?

ASST. D.C.: He is from Accra; his name is Mr. Thomas and he is the Governor's Secretary. His duty is if some one is in difficulty he should save him.

NANA BUACHI: Nana Brantuo is the first Chief of this town and I follow him next in rank. If the Chief does anything wrong I am by right the man to check him. Therefore when he instructed that the names of the people of the town should be registered from the Tax-Payers list I called him to my house. I and the people of the town asked the Chief under what authority he was doing the work. Nana Brantuo had nothing to say than to beg the people of the town and admitted that he was at fault. We punished him and his associates in the native customary way: Nana Brantuo and Mr. Apreku pacified the people of the town with four bottles schnapps each while the other two teachers who assisted them pacified the people with one bottle schnapps each. We asked Nana Brantuo to write to the District Commissioner cancelling what he had done. He wrote a letter to the D.C. That is the whole story. That is why I seized those papers that were surrendered to me. I notice that someone is writing at this meeting; I would ask that all speeches be written accurately and truly. At one time a D.C. came and a sked me certain questions and when I replied he went and submitted a false report to U.N.O. Others, on many occassions don't even come to investigate anything but send out false reports to authorities. I would ask that you give me now a copy of what has been written here because if a false report is sent to U.N.O. I should also write to U.N.O.

THE ASSISTANT DISTRICT COMMISSIONER THEN INFORMED NANA BUACHI THAT HE COULD NOT GIVE HIM A COPY OF WHAT HAS BEEN WRITTEN HERE BUT THAT HE WOULD SEND HIM A COPY AS SOON AS HE GOT BACK TO HIS STATION.

The meeting rose.

I, NANA BUACHI ASAFOHENE OF JASIKAN HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THE ABOVE ARE TRUE AND CORRECT. his