



UNITED NATIONS
TRUSTEESHIP
COUNCIL



GENERAL

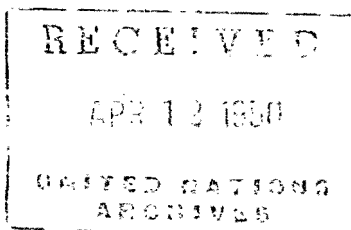
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PETITION FROM TWO ELDERS OF THE EWE COMMUNITY OF SUHUM
CONCERNING TOGOLAND UNDER BRITISH ADMINISTRATION
AND TOGOLAND UNDER FRENCH ADMINISTRATION

Note by the Secretary-General: In accordance with rule 84 of the rules of procedure for the Trusteeship Council, the Secretary-General has the honour to transmit herewith to the members of the Trusteeship Council a communication dated 15 November 1949 from two elders of the Ewe Community of Suhum concerning the Trust Territories of Togoland under British administration and Togoland under French administration. This communication was transmitted to the Secretary-General by the United Nations Visiting Mission to Trust Territories in West Africa.



C O P Y

TENDERED IN QUADRUPLICATE - REGISTERED

c/o P.O. Box 1,
S U H U M, Gold Coast,
West Africa.

15 November, 1949.

THE VISITING MISSION OF THE
UNITED NATIONS TRUSTEESHIP COUNCIL,
THROUGH THE LIAISON OFFICER,
TO THE VISITING MISSION,
P.O. BOX 140,
A G C R A .

Dear Sirs,

We have the honour to submit the following Memorandum on the EWE problem:-
THE NEED FOR UNIFICATION OF ALL EWELAND UNDER ONE ADMINISTRATION.

1. An important episode to be taken to account in our history as having greatly contributed to the wrong demarcation and partition of Eweland was that in the year 1850 the Danes who owned Forts or settlements along the shores of the Gold Coast sold their properties i.e. the Forts to the British for £10,000 and, of all these Danish Forts there was only one which was "Fort Prinzenstein", built at Keta in Eweland in 1784 which overstepped the River Volta or in other words situate East of the River Volta and therefore in Eweland.

2. The British on account of this solitary "Fort Prinzenstein" which became their property extended their influence to that portion of Eweland i.e. Keta District and its immediate interior Peki District, and they were so to say satisfied then with their small hold East of the River Volta, their influence thus centering round their properties.

3. In 1882, Germany came on the scene to declare protectorate over the remaining undeclared larger portion of Eweland extending further East of the Keta District. In consequence of which the Germans had to meet with some opposition from the British Government but the matter was later settled between the European contending powers including France, and by 1884 the German Government

was established to fully assume protectorate over the Ewe People, please mark.

4. The earlier Europeans attached much importance to the areas lying along the Sea Coast, and the treaties which later gave them access to the interior territories were usually transacted with the Native Chiefs of the Coastal areas on terms of trade and friendship.

5. The Germans while in occupation of Togoland discovered that the Ewe people virtually occupied all the Southern and mid-half portions of all the territories lying between the River Volta on the West and the River Monor on the Dahomey border on the East, and with a view of making a nation of this newly acquired territory adopted the Ewe language as the lingua franca for the whole territory and enforced its teaching besides German in all Schools in the interior districts.

6. The name or designation "Togoland" was derived from the name of a small Ewe village called "Togo" situate on a lagoon on the Sea Coast between the towns of Lome and Anecho in Togoland.

7. The German Government had long found out the terrible mistake of the boundary demarcation between what was called the Gold Coast and the Togoland territory vide old maps of these two territories before 1914, and that Government had started negotiations with the British Government for adjustment of the demarcation by which Germany was to acquire that portion of Eweland included in the Gold Coast i.e. Keta, Tongu and Peki Districts, to be merged into the larger Eweland known as Togoland thus making the River Volta a natural boundary between the two territories right from the Sea Coast up to the Northern Territories, a more convenient line of demarcation. We have already shown in Para 1 and 2 that the acquiring of "Fort Prinzenstein" at Keta by the British in 1850 was the sole cause of the partition of Eweland with its attendant evils to the Ewe people today.

8. For facts concerning the negotiations as stated above which would have been complete but for the war of 1914 Colonial documents in both London and Berlin will prove and support our claim for the unification of all Eweland under one administration.

9. That even before the World War of 1914, the partition of the Ewe Territories between Great Britain and Germany was a constant headache to the two Administrations and as a compromise it was agreed between the two Powers over a considerable period of their Administrations that Customs Excise Duty on Imports through the Port of Keta (Eweland in the Gold Coast) and on Imports through the Port of Lome in Togoland, be on equal level or rate, and thus it was that the rate of Customs Duty on Imports through Keta (British) and Lome (German) was 4% ad valorem agreed, whilst Customs Excise Duty in the Gold Coast proper West of the River Volta was 10% ad valorem. We have also to mention concerning currency that the German "Mark" and "Five Pfennig Coppers" were legal tenders along with British Currency in the British Sphere of Eweland of the Gold Coast so that virtually Eweland in the Gold Coast was considered inseparable from Togoland.

10. That up to 1909 or thereabout what is now known as the Customs Preventive Stations of the two present Governments (French and British) were solely operated by the British Government alone along the banks of the River Volta for checking and preventing of goods running from the cheaper areas, Keta (British) and Lome (German), to the dearer area of the Gold Coast West of the River Volta.

11. That for History of the Ewe people all due credits are due to the North German Mission of Bremen who of all European sojourners interested themselves in the History and culture of the people and the United Nations Commission would be greatly benefited by doing some research on the Ewe people by means of the records and writings at the Missionary Headquarters in Bremen, Germany.

12. That while it is admitted that there are other tribes further North of Eweland it must be understood that the more advanced Ewes of the South generally constituted the medium of approach to the North as through whose co-operation the early Missionaries and the Government had been able to influence the present little advancement of the North, and thus the spirit of the South permeated the North thereby joining them into one nation with one aspiration.

13. That believing the oft-repeated assurances of the British and French Governments to administer the Trust Territories towards Self Government and eventual independence, we the Ewe people are nevertheless constantly entertaining grave doubts over these pronouncements by the very fact of the apparent difficulty that both the British and French Governments now exhibit over our demand for Unification of all Eweland, a step which we consider undisputably conducive to our being free within our own group to determine our own affairs under one Administration to be decided on in consultation with the people themselves.

14. We demand the Unification of the two Togolands (British and French) and also the merging of Eweland of the Gold Coast i.e. Keta, Tongu and Peki Districts, into the Togolands all to be known and called Eweland.

15. That our relation with the Original European Powers (British and German) was based on Treaties of Friendship whereby we voluntarily accepted their protection and direction towards advanced conditions and that the present snail-pace plans of development and advancement of Native interest by the occupying Powers no more suit the awaredness of our present generation in this rapidly changing world. In fact the Ewe people and their immediate neighbours are better conscious of their own needs and the Unification of the territories is a priority demand now first towards our advancement.

16. The idea of Conventional Zones to be established along the present partition as proposed and discussed at the consultative Meetings of the two Administering Governments cannot solve our difficulties but would rather aggravate the situation. The idea is repugnant to us Africans and disturbing to our peace and advancement. We desire Unification of Eweland.

17. That barring the semi-military Administration of the late German Government of Togoland which was evidently highly oppressive politically, the Germans did more development works comparatively in the old prewar times of their 30 years occupation 1884-1914, on Roads, Railways, Wharf, Bridges, Communications, Hospitals, Schools, Agriculture and Produce Marketing and Towns planning than have been done by both British and French Governments within their 35 years of occupation 1914-1949 of Togoland; and gigantic schemes were known to have been in hand in 1914.

18. Concluding this Memorandum, it is the unanimous prayer and hope of the Ewes in the Togolands and Gold Coast that your Worthy Commission will carefully examine and grant this our foremost and honest demand for Unification of all Eweland i.e. the two Togolands and Eweland of the Gold Coast East of the River Volta under one Administration to be decided on in consultation with the people themselves.

We have the honour to be,

Sirs,

Your humble petitioners for the Ewe Cause,

(Signed) J. D. TAMAKLOE
(J. D. TAMAKLOE)

" D. M. LASSEY
(D. M. ABOKI LASSEY)

Elders of the Ewe Community of Suhum,
Akim Abuakwa State, Gold Coast, and
Notaries of Eweland.

RECEIVED at the United Nations Headquarters on 14 December 1949.