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PETITION FROM MR. M.C. TANAM CONCERNING THE CAMEROONS  
UNDER UNITED KINGDOM ADMINISTRATION

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

Z.M.M. School,  
Isiakenesi,  
Orlu.

28th August, 1961

The Secretary General,  
United Nations Organisation.

Sir,

The Southern Cameroons Tragedy

I am constrained to write again after waiting for a long time to hear from your Organisation concerning my petition. It beats imagination that the U.N.O. is a party to an arrangement which permits the unification of a peaceful land with a terrorist breeding state. As I write, press reports say even under the British eye, terrorist gangs cross the Boundary and slaughter my people. Is this necessary? What will happen when the Darkness falls in the Southern Cameroons on 1st October, 1961? Upon whose head is the blood of those dying now and those to die from terrorist action later?

On 9th September 1961, I shall present to the people of the World through the Government of the Southern Cameroons at Buea and your Organisation "Before the darkness false in the Southern Cameroons (Bukumanda)". Kindly instruct your representative in Nigeria to attend at Buea on that day. Attached is part of the

book.<sup>1/</sup> It speaks for itself. In the book, in true British style, I present a balanced statement:

- (a) A critical analysis of all facts
- (b) A way out and why.

You cannot afford to allow anything which will establish in the Southern Cameroons terrorism and its blood letting. My letter of 9/4/61 and yours of 1/8/61 No. T/PET.4/L.170 refer. I have got no further communication, yet the evil remains.

(Signed) M.C. TAJAM  
M.C. Tajam.  
Plebiscite Voter No. 17/b/4/M/60.

- Copies: 1. Southern Cameroons Government.  
2. Southern Cameroons Opposition.  
3. United Kingdom Government.  
4. United Kingdom Opposition.  
5. Cameroon Government Care Ambassador to Nigeria.  
6. C.P.P. and Government of Ghana.

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1/ Note by the Secretariat: This enclosure has been placed in the files of the Secretariat and is available to the members of the Trusteeship Council upon request.

M.C. Tanam  
Z.M.M. School Isiekenesi,  
Orlu, Eastern Nigeria.

28th August, 1961

The Premier,  
Southern Cameroons.

Honourable Premier,

The Southern Cameroons Tragedy  
"Before the Darkness Falls in Southern Cameroons"

I send herewith a notice that on 9th September, 1961, I shall be at Buea to present to the World and the U.N.O. through your Government, "Before the Darkness Falls in Southern Cameroons (Bukumanda)" being a critical analysis of the Tragedy called Unification. My entire family, mother, brothers, sisters, children are in the land of my birth, Funam, Bome, Menemo, Widikum Federation, Bamenda. Can I rest satisfied as Terrorism marches triumphantly in? Never!

Neither you nor the Opposition can see clearly what I see - only by-standers can pick out the best player in a football game. Also only those who understand the game can do the work of choosing the best player correctly. As the oldest and perhaps one of the best informed politician of Southern Cameroons origin, I am more than qualified to say whether you are playing the game properly or not. There have been publications about the Southern Cameroons - S.A. George, Akale, K.N.D.P., C.P.N.C. have all written. Mr. S.T. Muna gave me a number of them. You will be given an opportunity to compare them with "Before the Darkness falls in the S. Cameroons (Bukumanda)". I enclose pages 10 & 11 of the book and a letter to the U.N.O. about it. Let us consider the plight of the Southern Cameroons.

I give an analogy. Two neighbours Chief Ndifang and Chief Tamaja were friends. Each had very many people in his town. One day news came to Chief Ndifang that there was fighting between Chief Tamaja and some of his influential subjects. Chief Ndifang went to make peace. He begged both sides and failed. Then he decided to collect all his people and join in the fight asking Chief Tamaja to be his leader and to establish the type of rule which Tamaja has in his own town. What will you say? Was Chief Ndifang wise? Who will be responsible for deaths occurring in Chief Ndifang's town? I reckon Chief Ndifang's family most unfortunate. What say you?

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You struggled to reconcile the blood letting Government and Opposition of the Cameroon Republic and failed. Now you gather your people to share the fruits of intolerance! I have investigated, I know the forces impelling you. I know what you would have done without those forces. I can help you to do those things for the salvation of your and my land Bukumanda or Southern Cameroons. In "Before the Darkness falls" all issues are analysed and the solution given. Will you accept this hand of fellowship that brings no blood?

(Signed) M.C. TANAM

M.C. Tanam.

Copies: The Nigerian Press.  
The Southern Cameroons Press.  
Southern Cameroons Opposition.  
United Nations Organisation, Secretary-General.  
United Kingdom Government.  
United Kingdom Press.

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