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PETITION FROM MR. NDEH NTUMAZAH CONCERNING THE CAMEROONS
UNDER UNITED KINGDOM ADMINISTRATION (T/PET.4/201)

Observations of the Government of the United Kingdom
as Administering Authority

1. The telegram from Mr. Ndeh Ntumazah circulated as document T/PET.4/201 appears to raise specifically the cases of Hamman Jalo and Suleiman Salihu Jada. Hamman Jalo was arrested in November 1960 and charged with holding a public meeting without a permit; he was very shortly afterwards released on bail and has been on bail since. He had previously submitted a petition to the Administrator claiming inter alia that "the district heads here have been trying to imprison all those who support the Cameroons as a result of this our supporters have been sent to prison for no reason at all but because they support unification". The Administrator asked him for full details of these cases so that the matter could be investigated, but received no reply.
2. Suleiman Salihu, organizing Secretary of the Northern Kamerun Democratic Party at Jada, petitioned the Administrator and was accorded an interview at which he raised certain points about the plebiscite and expressed himself satisfied with the Administrator's replies. He raised no constitutional questions. However, two days later in a public speech he incited his hearers to violence and riot against the constituted authority of the Government, quoting the Congo as an example. The Administrator considered the situation sufficiently grave to warrant sending the head of his Police Force to deal with the matter personally. He also felt it necessary to deploy a riot unit to ensure that peace was preserved. Suleiman Jada was summoned to appear at the Alkali's Court and was sentenced to one year's hard labour.

3. The reference to the arrest of twenty-five others by the Anglo-Nigerian Police (reference to whom is assumed to indicate the Trust Territory Police) is not understood. The Native Authority Police acting on warrants issued by the Native Courts have arrested a number of people on charges arising out of activities connected with the Plebiscite and eighteen persons were at one time undergoing sentences of imprisonment for holding public meetings without permits. Of these seven have appealed to the Provincial Alkali who, while approving the convictions, reduced their sentences; they were released on 28 January 1961.

4. The Administrator is impartial as between Nigeria and the Cameroun Republic and there is no foundation for the charge that oppressive measures are being employed for the purpose of influencing the plebiscite vote in favour of one or other side.
