

UNITED NATIONS TRUSTEESHIP COUNCIL



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COMMUNICATION FROM EMERGENCY FONS AND CHIEFS CONFERENCE IN SESSION CONCERNING THE CAMEROONS UNDER BRITISH ADMINISTRATION

(Circulated in accordance with rule 24 of the rules
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Emergency Fons and Chiefs Conference
in Session,
Community Hall
Mankon Urban Area,
Bamenda,
Southern Cameroons.
27th January, 1958

His Excellency the Governor General
of the Federation of Nigeria, Lagos
Through the Commissioner of the Cameroons,
B u e a.

Your Excellency,

The Future Status of the Southern Cameroons

As an outcome of the Fons and chiefs Emergency Conference held here today to consider the future Status of the Southern Cameroons, we the undersigned Fons and Chiefs have the honour most respectfully to bring to your notice our strong and vehement protest against newspaper publications of the Daily Times of the 11th and 13th January, 1958 pages 12 and 7 respectively and also certain Radio broadcasts all relative to the vital question of the future of this Territory on the following grounds:

1. That it is the consensus of opinion that the people of this Territory have completely lost confidence in Dr. Endelcy's Government, and cannot therefore respect any decision taken on behalf of this Territory by that Government.
2. That the composition of the Southern Cameroons Government at present has no regard to accepted democratic principles as indicated in the strength of the K.N.C. elected members in the Legislature. This party has a strength

of only five elected members now against six such members of the K.N.D.P. It is only too obvious therefore that the latter ought to lead the Government of the territory. Notwithstanding this fact the K.N.C. Government has the cheek to sing a loud song of the Southern Cameroons attaining Independence within the Federation of Nigeria in 1960.

3. That the Kamerun National Congress has always won general elections to the Southern Cameroons House of Assembly since its establishment, because of the Secession Sermon it preached through the length and breadth of the Territory.

4. That the K.N.C. now talks of Independence with Nigeria in 1960 surprises the mass of the people of this territory and honestly creates doubts in the minds of the majority of the people because instead of talking about secession as was often the case it has introduced the opposite.

5. That it has become quite evident that the K.N.C. Government has betrayed the people's trust and it will be disastrous to increase its powers without a new mandate through general elections. We resent the appointments of Ministers and Premier to be made as demanded by the leader of the Southern Cameroons Government, business yet untill after the results of the forthcoming general elections.

6. That the Cameroons as a Trust Territory can no longer retain its identity if she attains independence with a now Self-Governing Nigeria. We are convinced that Independence within Nigeria is not to the best interest of the people of this territory.

Sir, we regret to bother you with this petition but hope that you will appreciate that the issue which motivates it is of such great national importance that it will not fail to receive the sympathetic consideration it deserves.

We have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your humble Fons and Chiefs:

- (Sgd.)
1. Fon of Bafut.
 2. Fon of Bali.
 3. Rep. of the Fon of Bikom.
 4. The Chief of Aghwi (Batibo)
 5. " " Bafreng.
 6. " " Eabanki.
 7. " " Eambalang.
 8. " " Eessi
 9. " " Eanbui
 10. " " Tuanyang.
 11. " " Bamenda Nkwe.
 12. " " Mbetu.
 13. " " Bome (Funam)
 14. " " Kai
 15. " " Guzang.
 16. " " Bambili.
 17. " " Sarkin Hausawa.

..... (Illegible)
Chairman's Signature

AWD/GGT.

Reply to: The Secretary,
The Fons and Chiefs Conference,
C/o His Highness V.S. Galega II,
The Fon of Bali,
Bal-Nyonga,
Bamenda, Southern Cameroons

Copy to:
The Secretary,
Trusteeship Council,
America,

Sir,

For your information and necessary consideration, please.

..... Chairman
