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COMMUNICATION FROM MR. E.M.L. ENDELEY CONCERNING THE
CAMEROONS UNDER UNITED KINGDOM ADMINISTRATION

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Leader of the Opposition,
Southern Cameroons House of Assembly,
Buea,
28 November, 1959

His Honour
The Commissioner of the Cameroons,
Commissioner's Office,
BUEA.

Sir,

Meeting of Southern Cameroons House of Assembly

Following on our discussion with you yesterday morning, I am now writing to confirm our request that a meeting of the Southern Cameroons House of Assembly be Summoned before Christmas, for the following reasons:-

- (a) For the Government to restate its policy in the light of the recent Resolution by the General Assembly of United Nations on the future of the Southern Cameroons;
- (b) To debate the expenditure of public funds for the newly established additional Ministries for which no financial provision was made either in the current year's estimates or in the first Supplementary Estimates, 1959/60;
- (c) To debate the Philipson's Report on the Financial and Economic implications of Secession from the Federation of Nigeria.

When the K.N.D.P. came into power early this year, the new Government made a clear statement of policy which was reflected in the Speech from the Throne. This policy statement was fully debated as well as a motion by the Minister of Works and Transport, which was passed on the 12th February, 1959. It is clear that the recent resolution of the General Assembly is in conflict with Government intentions, and the people of the Southern Cameroons are entitled to know what the Premier's new programme is in respect of the resolution itself and the investigations that were ordered to examine the implications inseparable from executing his original policy. It will also be remembered that after the earlier decision of the General Assembly in February this year, the Premier reported to the House of Assembly.

We are of the opinion that the recent decision of the General Assembly on the future of the Territory is very far reaching in its effect and inasmuch as it involves a possible choice for the British sector to reunify with the French Cameroons, which attains her independence in the New Year, it becomes, in our view, almost obligatory for the Government to declare his policy, without any equivocation whatsoever, before January 1, 1960.

The Order-in-Council bringing the decisions of the last Nigerian Constitutional Conference into operation has recently been signed by Her Majesty, and as a result the Premier, Mr. Foncha, has created two new Ministries. As far as we remember, no provisions were made in the Estimates for meeting these new expenditure which is bound to be heavy as new offices and additional posts will have to be created to serve the new Ministries. Are we to understand that Government intends to introduce this expenditure through the back door without seeking the sanction and authority of the Legislature as provided for under the Finance Law? Could these matters be classified as emergency requirements too?

We are convinced, Your Honour, that the subjects listed above are of sufficient public interest and urgency to deserve an emergency meeting of the Legislature to deliberate upon them, and we appeal to Your Honour to use your good offices to advise the Executive Council to summon an early meeting of the Southern Cameroons House of Assembly.

We are in duty to make it quite clear that any attempts on the part of Government to cover itself in a smoke screen of secrecy at a time like this can only be interpreted as an indication of loss of confidence. The remedy for this is an immediate dissolution of the House to enable them to seek a new mandate from

the electorate. No Government that is worth its salt can circumvent the normal parliamentary channels in stating its policy or in implementing measures designed to serve the public interest.

We sincerely hope that our request will be given due consideration in the interest of preserving the High traditions of parliamentary democracy in the Southern Cameroons.

I have the honour to be, Sir, Your humble obedient Servant,

(Signed) E.M.L. ENDELEY

Leader of the Opposition,
Southern Cameroons House of Assembly

c.c. His Excellency the High Commissioner
for Southern Cameroons, Lagos
The Secretary-General, United Nations,
Lake Success, New York, U.S.A.
