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COMMUNICATION FROM THE PRESIDENT GENERAL AND THE ASSISTANT
SECRETARY-GENERAL OF K.N.D.P. CONCERNING THE CAMEROONS
UNDER BRITISH ADMINISTRATION

(Circulated in accordance with rule 24 of the rules of
procedure of the Trusteeship Council)

BUEA, SOUTHERN CAMEROONS,
13th February, 1958

His Excellency,
The Governor-General of the
Federation of Nigeria, LAGOS.
through
The Commissioner of the Cameroons
BUEA, SOUTHERN CAMEROONS.

Your Excellency,

A Petition Against KNC/KPP Private Members' Motions Passed.

We the members of the Parliamentary Wing of the KNDP for ourselves and on behalf of the entire members of the Party and our supporters, have the honour to present to your Excellency our case against the following motions passed during the last meeting of the Cameroons House of Assembly held on February 11th and 12th, 1958:-

(i) Mr. N.N. Mbile to move:

"That this Honourable House prays His Excellency the Governor-General of the Federation of Nigeria to make representations to Her Majesty's Government for the inclusion in the Constitutional Instruments (to be promulgated shortly) of a provision allowing the immediate introduction of the Ministerial System of Government as laid down in paragraph 64 (f) of the Report by the last Nigeria Constitutional Conference."

(ii) Dr. E.M.L. Endeley to move:

"That this Honourable House prays Her Majesty's Government through the Governor-General of the Federation of Nigeria that in view of Her Majesty's undertaking to grant Regional Self-Government to those Regions which desire it, it is the wish of this House that Self-Government be granted to the Southern Cameroons not later than the 1959 as an additional safeguard to the Territory's position when the Federation of Nigeria attains full independence in 1960".

(iii) Mr. P.H. Motomby-Woleta to move:

"That this Honourable House prays His Excellency the Governor-General of the Federation of Nigeria to expunge paragraph (b) of Regulation 9 from the Southern Cameroons Law Number 10 of 1958, Elections (Southern Cameroons House of Assembly) Regulations, and to make provisions in the said Regulations for the deletion from the register of voters of the names of any persons who have been registered as electors by virtue of being qualified for registration under paragraph (b) of Regulations 9".

In objecting to the passing of these motions we have the following points to advance:

Whereas the term Quasi-Federal Territory has not been dropped as recommended in the Report by the Nigeria Constitutional Conference 1957, and

Whereas the general elections to the Southern Cameroons House of Assembly have not been held to increase the elected members from 13 to 26, and eliminate the 6 seats of the Native Administration Members, and

Whereas the offices of the High Commissioner and Cabinet have not been constituted, and

Whereas it is conventional that any change in the Constitution must reflect the wishes of the electorate, the political sovereign of any country, and

Whereas the present Government has completely lost the confidence of the people of the Southern Cameroons, and

Whereas in the 1958 New Year message of His Excellency the Governor-General, the Southern Cameroons public were informed of a pending general elections soon to be held to the House of Assembly and only thereafter to introduce the Ministerial System of Government, and

Whereas it would be an imposition on the people to introduce the cabinet system of government and the attainment of Self-Government without consultation with the general public, and

/...

Whereas the inclusion of regulation 9 (b) of the Electoral Regulations to the Southern Cameroons House of Assembly, was the result of public reaction championed by the same KNC 1951-57, and

Whereas the expunging of Regulation 9 (b) of the said Electoral Regulations for elections to the Southern Cameroons House of Assembly 1958 would amount to the denial of a legitimate people the very basic fundamental principle of human rights to have a say in the choice of their own government freely, and

Fearing that the adoption of these motions would be a pointer to an era of autocracy, unrests and political strifes, and

In view of the fact that your Excellency as the Trustee of this territory stands a better position to sound the opinion of the people and assess their reaction, we pray Your Excellency most graciously not only to stand by the report of the conference but to also discountenance the above motions passed and allow political growth to take the democratic course so well enshrined in the recommendations by the learned constitutional experts.

We are,
Your Excellency's most obedient servants,

J.N. FONCHA (J.N. Foncha)
(President-General)

CHI BIKOM (Mr. Chi Bikom)
(Ass. Secretary-General).

Copy to:

1. The Commissioner of the Cameroons, Buea,
2. The Secretary of State for the Colonies, Colonial Office, London.
3. The Secretary-General of the U.N.O., Lake Success, New York.
4. The Press.
5. The N.B.C. Lagos

N.B. Communications to be addressed to:

The Ass. Secretary-General
K.N.D.P. National Secretariat,
Mankon,
P.O. Bamenda,
SOUTHERN CAMEROONS.