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COMMUNICATION FROM ONE KAMERUN NATIONAL SECRETARIAT,
KUMBA, CONCERNING THE CAMEROONS UNDER UNITED KINGDOM
ADMINISTRATION

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No. 043/OK
ONE KAMERUN NATIONAL SECRETARIAT,
P.O. Box 49,
K U M B A
9th November 1960

The Colonial Secretary,
Colonial Office,
London.

Sir,

London Constitutional Conference

I have to confirm my cablegram of 8/11/60 which reads as follows:

"Onekamerun protests strongly subtle attempt British and Foncha's Governments circumvent UNO decisions on Kamerun by rejecting Plebiscite and forcing country as independent unit within Commonwealth through fat loan and vague constitutional reforms so create Katanga here x Movement denounces all proposals of coming Anglo Foncha London Conference as huge joke x Petition follows"

2. This cablegram portrays in unmistakeable terms the stand of the One Kamerun in connection with the present conference. There is no doubt that the composition of the delegation is devoid of democratic principle or precedent in so far as the O.K. which has a substantial following, both in the Southern and Northern Cameroons under United Kingdom Trusteeship is neglected; and whereas parties like the Kamerun United Party with barely no popular support is represented.
3. In the Mamfe Summit Conference which was held from 19th to 20th October 1960, convened by Mr. J.N. Foncha, Premier of the Southern Cameroons to study the

proposals initiated by his Government for the London Conference, the O.K. was represented. But the Government having visualised the O.K.'s opposition to the talks, avowedly rejected its delegation to London.

Post-Plebiscite Constitution

4. The O.K. maintains that a Constitutional Conference is unwarrantable at this crucial moment when the country is faced with a plebiscite. The O.K. believes that the conference be cancelled, for it is unpropitious and is a waste of public funds.

5. What constitution, therefore, does the Government and opposition wish to evolve, and what is the necessity for a post-plebiscite constitution which will only apply to the Southern Cameroons. The O.K. does not believe on the creation of a Southern Cameroons State or an interim constitution for the Southern Cameroons. The O.K. envisages an All-Kamerun Constitutional Conference composed of all political parties in the Southern and Northern Cameroons and the Kamerun Republic. Such a conference should be directed and assisted by United Nations Constitutional lawyers versed in British and French Constitutional laws. The conference should be held immediately after the plebiscite.

6. It is alleged that as a result of close-door discussions between the Government and opposition, it was agreed that the following major issues should become effective after the plebiscite viz

- (a) Formation of a Coalition Government, in which Premier Foncha would automatically become the Prime Minister and Endelly the Governor.
- (b) Demand for independence of the Southern Cameroons within the Commonwealth.
- (c) Should her Majesty's Government endorse the above decisions, the Government and opposition would proceed to the United Nations to request the cancellation of the plebiscite. Or if her Majesty's Government considers such steps uncongenial, then reunification would be delayed for 5 years or more on the grant of £14 million loan.

It is further alleged that on the strength of (b) above, Britain is willing to offer the Southern Cameroons a gift of £12 million should the plebiscite be cancelled and the Territory remains within the Commonwealth.

/...

Unification

7. It is agreed from all quarters, that reunification is the consensus opinion of the populations of the Southern and Northern Cameroons with the Kamerun Republic. Reunification has been the general cry of the masses since the Southern Cameroons was part and parcel of the Eastern Region of Nigeria.
8. It is because of Dr. Endelly's slogan of reunification that the Southern Cameroons severed her administrative link with the Eastern Region of Nigeria. When Endelly deviated from this noble cause, his party KNC/KPP Alliance now C.P.N.C. was rejected at the polls.
9. Foncha told the last United Nations Visiting Mission of 1958 to the Southern Cameroons that should his party come into power as a result of the general elections in January 1959, he would confirm the consent of the people on this side for reunification. Although it is alleged that Foncha now wishes to drop the idea of reunification at the London Conference and eventually ask Britain and Southern Cameroons opposition to cooperate with him to cancel the plebiscite, nevertheless, the O.K. vehemently opposes any imperialistic strategies to nullify the plebiscite.

Financial and Technical Aid

10. The foremost objective of the Southern Cameroons Government's visit to London is to demand from her Majesty's Government a loan of £14 million to meet a development programme for a period of 5 years or so. This step has the blessing of the Commissioner of the Cameroons, who is her Majesty's representative in the Southern Cameroons. In other words, it has the backing of the United Kingdom Government.
11. I quote hereunder the statement of Mr. Lennox Boyd, then Secretary of State representing her Majesty's Government at page 25 of the 1957 London Constitutional Report which reads inter alia, "Among the options open to them (Southern Cameroons) would be to continue under the Trust Administration of the United Kingdom. I must in fairness add the warning that you would not thereby be given the golden key to the Bank of England!"
12. A few years ago, Britain refused us 'the golden key to the Bank of England', and now she guarantees us this same 'golden key' at the verge of our independence.

How could the Southern Kamerunians reconcile such apparently irreconcilables? It can be inferred that because Britain has sensed a strong desire for reunification in the Territory, she wishes because of the huge loan of £14 million and a free gift of £12 million.

(a) To create another Katanga of the Southern Cameroons which would be another Britain overseas, in other words, it would help to create an influx of British Civil Servants, technicians, and settlers, and thus safeguard British interests.

(b) Britain would be opportuned to create a military base in the Southern Cameroons.

Neo-Colonialism

13. Neo-Colonial intrigues under the guise of gift had been hatched and Premier Foncha had to hurry to meet Macleod. This proposal, it is assumed, would augur well for the Southern Cameroons if we remain in the Commonwealth.

14. What will the Commonwealth provide now, when Britain has exercised her tutelary functions for over 45 years without any institutions of higher learning, no social amenities etc.? Will a further stay in the Commonwealth ameliorate the position? The O.K. maintains that no matter how long the Southern Cameroons remains in the Commonwealth her position will not be enhanced. She will continuously succumb to the yoke of colonialism and imperialist exploitation. Because the O.K. has been vigilant in denouncing the grant of the loan and gift, the Government is planning to ban the O.K. Such threats don't mitigate the outspokenness of the O.K.

15. Britain is out to stab the U.N., of which she is a member, at the back by subtle tactical methods to nullify the plebiscite, which is a violation of United Nations decision.

16. In the final analysis, the O.K. maintains

(a) That no loan or gift should be granted. Britain should understand that a United Kamerun Parliament is the only organ which has the prerogative to negotiate for external loans.

(b) Britain should stop wooing the Southern Cameroons to remain in the Commonwealth. The Southern Cameroons Government is not competent to enter into such negotiations. /...

(c) Britain, in cooperation with the Southern Cameroons Government, should cease molesting the O.K. and its members.

Yours faithfully,

(Sgd.) AKA FULLER

Aka Fuller
VICE-PRESIDENT
ONE KAMERUN.

Copies to:

The Secretary-General, United Nations, New York.
The Commissioner of Cameroons, Buea.
The Premier, Southern Cameroons, Buea.
The U.N. Plebiscite Commissioner, Buea.
The U.K. Plebiscite Administrator, Buea.
