



UNITED NATIONS  
TRUSTEESHIP  
COUNCIL



GENERAL

T/PET.4/71/Add.2  
23 August 1951

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

DOCUMENTS INDEX UNIT **MASTER**

PETITION FROM THE FRENCH CAMEROONS WELFARE UNION CONCERNING THE CAMEROONS UNDER BRITISH ADMINISTRATION July 1951

MTD | | Dew

Note by the Secretary-General: In accordance with rule 85 and supplementary rule F of the rules of procedure for the Trusteeship Council, the Secretary-General has the honour to transmit to the members of the Trusteeship Council and to the Government of Italy as the Administering Authority of the Trust Territory of Somaliland, a communication dated 17 July 1951 from the French Cameroons Welfare Union concerning the Trust Territory of the Cameroons under British administration. This communication forms a second addendum to the petition set forth in document T/PET.4/71.

C O P Y

FRENCH CAMEROONS WELFARE UNION,

HEADQUARTERS - OFFICE, VICTORIA, BRITISH CAMEROONS.  
\*\*\*\*\*

Motto: Self-Help.

Ref. No. F.C.W.U /H.Q./2/46  
P. O. B o x 18,  
Victoria, British Cameroons,  
17 J u l y, 1951.

The Honourable  
The Senior Resident,  
Cameroons Province, B U E A.

Sir,

I am directed to express my Union's keen appreciation of, and grateful thanks for your letter No. 448 7/29 of the 10th of July which came to hand yesterday morning. Your letter No. 4487/22 of July 10 addressed to the Secretary, Eastern Provinces, Enugu, is a very fair record of our discussion of June 30 except that the number of our members who attended the meeting was, according to our records, nearly 800.

2. It would appear to my Union that the legal difficulties to which you had called our attention during our discussion might be overcome were His Excellency the Governor to exercise -- as a temporary expedient and pending a final decision by His Majesty's Government on the issues raised in our petition of May 6, 1941 -- the powers conferred upon him under Chapter III (the Central Legislative House - House of Representatives) section 70(1) of the new Nigerian Constitution. This section reads :-

"70(1). The Governor, acting in his discretion, may, by Instrument under the Public Seal, appoint persons to be Special Members of the House of Representatives to represent interests or communities which, in his opinion, are not otherwise adequately represented in the House:

"Provided that the number of such members shall not at any time exceed six."

In this connection, I am to invite your attention to the submission made in the 10th paragraph of our petition dated the 6th of May, 1951, addressed to His Excellency the Governor of Nigeria.

3. As to the question of our representation in the Eastern House of

/Assembly,

49

Assembly, Chapter II Part 3 (Eastern Region) section 42(1)(a) of the new Nigerian Constitution says:-

"42(1)(a). No person shall be qualified to be elected as a member of a House of Assembly who -  
 "(a) is, by virtue of his own act, under any acknowledgement of allegiance, obedience or adherence to any foreign Power or State; ..."

4. As we have already emphasised both in our letter of June 16th addressed to the Senior District Officer, Victoria, and in our meeting with you at Victoria on June 30th, the opinion universally held by the Natives of the KAMERUN is that we are neither British nor French subjects. In this connexion, I am to invite particular attention to the statement made by Dr. E.M.L. ENDELEY, the representative of the Cameroons under British administration, at the General Conference held at IBADAN, Western Nigeria, from 9th until 28th January, 1950, for the purpose of making recommendations to the Governor and the Secretary of State for the Colonies on the future system of government for Nigeria. This statement is enlightening as it shows with the least shadow of ambiguity the wishes and aspirations of the KAMERUN. I am to express the view that the crippling handicaps and anomalies now besetting the immigrants from the Cameroons under French administration settled in the Cameroons under British administration would not have arisen had His Majesty's Government given careful and sympathetic consideration to the views clearly expressed in Dr. Endeley's written statement.

5. With regard to the statement in the second sentence in the first paragraph of your letter No. 4487/22 of July 10 addressed to the Secretary, Eastern Provinces, it is only fair for me to point out that the responsibility for the delay in the transmission of our petition to you rests solely with the District Office, Victoria, and not with my Union.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

(sgd.) F. E b u m b u,

General Secretary,  
 French Cameroons Welfare Union,  
 c/o Government School, Victoria.

Ref.No.F.C.W.U./H.Q./2/17A.  
17 July, 1951.

The Assistant Secretary-General,  
Department of Trusteeship and Information  
from Non-Self-Governing Territories,  
Lake Success, New York, U. S. A.

For information of the members of the Trusteeship  
Council, with reference to my letter dated the 10th of June, 1951.

/s/ F. Ebumbu  
General Secretary,  
French Cameroons Welfare Union.

Received in the United Nations Headquarters Aug. 20, 1951.

-----