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PETITION FROM MR. G.E. WOSE, HON. SECRETARY OF THE BAKWERI CLAN
MEETING CONCERNING THE CAMEROONS UNDER BRITISH ADMINISTRATION

(Circulated in accordance with rule 85, paragraph 2 of the
rules of procedure of the Trusteeship Council)

From The Hon. Secretary, G.E. Wose,
6, Market Square,
c/o Bakweri Council Office,
Buea, Southern Cameroons.
20th May, 1959.

The Secretary-General,
U. N. O.,
Lake Success, New York,
U. S. A.

Sir,

The enclosed are sent to you as a petition against the statement signed
by the Chiefs and Natural Rulers of the Southern Cameroons presented by
Mr. J.N. Foncha, Premier of the Southern Cameroons, during the last Conference
of the U.N.O.

I shall therefore be grateful if the above mentioned statement is treated
as such.

I am, Sir,

Yours respectfully,

(Signed) G. WOSE

G.E. Wose.

Hon. Secretary, Bakweri Clan Meeting,
BUEA.

From The Hon. Secretary, G.E. Wose,
6, Market Square,
c/o Bakweri Council Office,
Buea, Southern Cameroons.
20th May, 1959.

The Secretary-General,
United Nations Organisation,
Lake Success, New York,
U.S.A.

Sir,

Future of Southern Cameroons under United
Kingdom Administration

We have the honour to inform you that an extraordinary meeting of Village Heads and Elders of the Bakweri-speaking people in Victoria Division, Southern Cameroons, was held at Buea on the 3rd day of May^{1/} for the purpose of affording Dr. E.M.L. Endeley, O.B.E., M.H.A., Leader of the Opposition in the Southern Cameroons House of Assembly, an opportunity to give an account of his stewardship during the discussions on the future of the Southern Cameroons under British Administration at Lake Success, New York, in February/March, 1959. The meeting at Buea was fully representative of important villages in the Bakweri Tribal Area: in short, forty-seven villages sent in over 200 representatives.

2. At this meeting, Dr. Endeley explained the significance of the forthcoming plebiscite and touched on the alleged "Joint Statement issued by Southern Cameroons Fons and Chiefs (Natural Rulers)", reproduced on page nine of the cyclostyled "Statement to the Fourth Committee on 23rd February, 1959, by Mr. J.N. Foncha, Premier of the Southern Cameroons", (Reference No.FAC/1 Vol. 2.29), which we are directed to quote, hereunder, for easy reference:

x x x

"The Fons and Chiefs are above party politics and the question of Southern Cameroons secession from or integration with an independent Federation of Nigeria is also above party politics. This is why no Political Party without the express wishes of the Natural rulers and their

1/ Note by the Secretariat: Minutes of the meeting of the Bakweri Tribe, held on 3 May 1959 at Buea, and bearing sixty-three signatures, as well as four photographs which were attached, are being kept in the files of the Secretariat and may be consulted by members of the Trusteeship Council upon request.

people at the polls could decide this question by mere logical and legislative debates. Now that the Secessionists have captured the Southern Cameroons Government, the question of a possible plebiscite is simplified and almost solved. The Southern Cameroons Chiefs' Conference and the Southern Cameroons masses shall not slacken the grip till Secession irrevocably sealed. Lovers of Southern Cameroons unity and her progressive Nationhood, sons and daughters of the Southern Cameroons at home and abroad are congratulated for the roles so far played and are urged to continue to strive to the very end.

ACHIRIMIBI Fon of Bafut	}	On behalf of ourselves
V.S. GALEGA II Fon of Bali		the Signatories and our
J.M. WILLIAMS		Colleagues
CHIEF ENDELEY Buea		

Issued at Buea this 11th day of February 1959".

3. This statement, read in conjunction with the Statement in Annex II Page 10 of the Fourth Visiting Mission's Report, was tantamount to a vote of "no confidence" on Dr. Endeley by the Bakweri people. But how could this be the case when the Bakweris returned him with an overwhelming majority over his opponent. Chief G.M. Endeley, (the Doctor's uncle), was, therefore, not acting on the mandate of the Bakweri people who installed him chief in Dr. Endeley's father's seat some 35 years ago.

4. The meeting was, therefore, dumb-founded to observe that Chief G.M. Endeley should have arrogated to himself the right to subscribe to a document of such far-reaching consequences not only to our own generation but also to generations of Bakweris yet unborn, without any previous consultation whatsoever with his compeers and/or representatives of other Bakweri Villages which form the main ethnic group in the Victoria Division of the Southern Cameroons.

5. In this connection, it is important to bear in mind the fact that as a result of the Local Authority Reform introduced in the Victoria Division - with which the Trusteeship Council is fully conversant - some two years ago, both Chief G.M. Endeley and the late Chief J. Manga Williams have had to relinquish their positions as Chairmen of the Bakweri Clan and Victoria Federated Native Authorities respectively. Even under the cloak of his present nomination for life as Vice-President of the Victoria Divisional Council, Chief G.M. Endeley had no powers, tribal or otherwise, to commit the Bakweri people to a course of

action which is as likely as not to sound the death-knell to the future of the Bakweri tribe in the Southern Cameroons Community. The Bakweris are not secessionists.

6. Chief G.M. Endeley was specifically invited to the meeting in order to give him an opportunity to defend himself and explain his reasons for subscribing to such an obnoxious document, but was too scared to face the people and declined the summons. Consequent upon his disrespectful and arrogant behaviour, coupled with his blatant betrayal of our people, the tribal meeting unanimously decided to relieve him forthwith of all the rights and privileges he has been enjoying as the elected Head of the Bakweri Clan. Further, the tribal meeting resolved unanimously to notify the Administering Authority, the United Nations, and other competent public bodies, that the Bakweri people as represented at that meeting will no longer recognize Chief G.M. Endeley as their Head and that the statement ascribed to him in Mr. J.N. Foncha's Statement to the Fourth Committee of the Trusteeship Council bears no weight and in no way reflects the feelings of the Bakweri people and he has no authority to act on their behalf. Chief G.M. Endeley is now 'taboo' in so far as the Bakweri people are concerned, and virtually destooled according to Bakweri Native Law and Custom in accordance with which he was installed some 35 years ago. The document signed by Chief G.M. Endeley is, therefore, null and void as far as the Bakweris are concerned and should be ignored by the General Assembly of U.N.O.

We have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

(Signed)	G.E. WOSE	}	Joint Honorary Secretaries.
	G.E. Wose		
"	S.L. NGANDO		
	S.L. Ngando		

BAKWERI CLAN MEETING, BUEA.
