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PETITION FROM MR. NGAW IWISI NJESI AND OTHERS CONCERNING
THE CAMEROONS UNDER UNITED KINGDOM ADMINISTRATION

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

From Ngaw Iwisi Njesi and Co.
Wanangwen-Aghem,
Wum Division,
Southern Cameroons,
Cameroons under U.K. Trusteeship.

11th March, 1961

The Secretary-General,
United Nations,
NEW YORK

Sir,

Petition from Ngaw Iwisi Njesi and Co. against the unfairness of the recent Plebiscite in the Southern Cameroons and against the Aghem Tribe unifying with the Cameroun Republic.

We have the honour to address you on a burning matter namely the recent Plebiscite conducted in the Southern Cameroons.

We maintain that the Plebiscite was not fair at all. By this we do not mean that the Plebiscite officials from both U.N.O. and U.K. were dishonest or did not do their job well. The unfairness we are talking about is coming from the fact that the Parties who claim to represent each of the Two Alternatives were not given equal chance and equal opportunity for the success of the alternatives chosen. To be more accurate that the G.P.N.C. was not given the same chance of winning like the K.N.D.P. Our reasons for saying so are given bellow:

1. The KNDP which favoured one Alternative (Union with the Camerouns Republic) was in Government under whose power the Plebiscite was conducted.

The Party naturally used all the governmental organs with all its powers and amenities. Civil Servants, the Police were all used for campaign. Promises for promotions and increments in salaries were made to the servants, reward and even future security for servants would be promised. In addition the old Government Pensioners were invited to rejoin the Service. What an effective campaign this was! Who would fail to vote the way such a generous government would direct?

2. The British officers in the Southern Cameroons accepted anything, it would seem that was done by the KNDP. For instance, Plebiscite literature was torn in the public and the Government did nothing about it. Complaints would be brought to the Police who ignored them for fear they should take no action lest they should offend the KNDP.

3. Many lies were being told the people. The people were told by the Governing Party that a vote for the White Box meant a vote to regain our land from the Ibo people and not for joining the Republic of the Cameroun, that the White Box represented our Grassland son Mr. Foncha while the Green Box represented Dr. Endeley the Coastal man; and any Grasslander voting for the Green Box did so against the tribe.

4. Many Chiefs were used for intimidating the public and penalising them in certain ways. Very few brave people were able to stand these trials of intimidation and to be able to vote for the Green Box which represents union with the Federation of Nigeria.

These are only a few examples we have quoted to support our case. It should be plain to anybody that under these circumstances the Green Box had not chance of success whatever. It should therefore be no surprise that the vote for the White Box is so high.

We humbly petition therefore that the Plebiscite be nullified and that it be conducted once more in a fair atmosphere.

In case nullification fails we wish to make it clear to you Sir, that we will not join the Republic. Our ancestors came from Tiv (Munchis) and we will like to rejoin our brothers and not the people of the Cameroun Republic.

Believing that you will consider our Petition seriously, We are, Sir,

Your humble petitioners,

Sgd.

Ngaw Iwisi Njesi, HRTI

Mua Ewi, HRTI

Akuo Mbong, HRTI

Kuje Ngei, HRTI.

C.C. The Secretary of state for the Colonies, London.
The Commissioner of the Southern Cameroons, Buea.
The Prime Minister of the Federation of Nigeria, Lagos.
Dr. E.M.L. Endeley, Leader of the Opposition, Cameroons House of
Assembly, Buea.
