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PETITION FROM CHIEFS AND PEOPLE OF WUM WEST (BEBA-BEFANG-ESEMBI)  
CLANS PLEBISCITE DISTRICT CONCERNING CAMEROONS UNDER UNITED  
KINGDOM ADMINISTRATION

(Circulated in accordance with rule 85, paragraph 2, of the rules  
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Beba-Befang/Esimbi  
Wum West Plebiscite District  
Wum Division, Bamenda Province,  
Southern Cameroons.

22nd February 1961

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

Sir,

Petition from the Chiefs and people of Wum West (Beba-Befang-Esimbi)  
Clans Plebiscite District

We the undersigned petitioners have been compelled to raise these points for your serious consideration and immediate U.N.O. action.

2. The Southern Cameroons Plebiscite is over and the result from our own clans is known to you. The votes in favour of Union with Nigeria (the first Alternative) were slightly lowered by 1000 than those for the Second Alternative, unknown life in the Republic of Cameroun. We want to make it abundantly clear that we were deceived by the KNDP politicians who told us that voting for the white box actually meant joining the Republic but remaining by ourselves under a similar regime as is obtainable now. They tore several of the official documents explaining the two Alternatives and many times asked us not to go to hear what was being said during the "Enlightenment Campaign". They told us that the Plebiscite Officials were stooges for the Federation of Nigeria, and that anyone who voted for the Green Box would be deported from the Southern Cameroons. We were being told these not only by politicians but also by many civil servants both Government and Native Authority. As a result we voted against the Green Box for fear of the Government Party.

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3. Now that voting has been done, the KNDP politicians have come out in their true colour. They tell us that we have irrevocably voted for joining the Cameroun Republic the life of which is not known by us. We have been wickedly deceived.

4. But now if independence means that the British will hand power to Nigeria or to the Republic we are prepared to remain under the system of life we have been accustomed to. Under no circumstances will we be pushed into the Cameroun Republic by the Bamenda people. We want to remain by ourselves and in the British Commonwealth of Nations from now to sever political connection with them. They have been a cause of disunity in the Southern Cameroons. We have been with them as long as the English have been holding the helm of Government - If Britain relinquishes power we can never never pass into the hands of such hostile and oppressive people. We want to be where we are secured. Under the Republic of Cameroun people our security is very uncertain.

5. Having driven our points home to you, we believe that the Congo situation in the Southern Cameroons been saved.

We remain, Sir, Your humble Petitioners.

Chief Wachong of Essimoi

Chief Ujang of Befang

Chief of Okoromanjang

Councillor Njiba Uttia Ndu of Modelle, KNDP

Councillor Ako Ndunyam of Okoromanjang, KNDP

Fomunyam of Mubadji, KNDP

Councillor Wajungu of Banabinge

Councillor Wajugu of Bufi

Councillor Azi of (illegible)

Chief Ayo of Modelle

Chief Tibagang of Mubedji

Councillor Tis Shia of (illegible)

Councillor Injah Kum of (illegible)

Councillor Akum Inji of Batomo

Councillor Ihimbru Ote Mbu of Benagudi

Councillor Ungum Gungo of Benade

Councillor Boke of Benahundu

Councillor (Secretary) C. Gwiyang of Batomo.