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PETITION FROM THE NATIONAL SECRETARIAT OF THE CAMEROUN LABOUR PARTY  
CONCERNING THE CAMEROONS UNDER UNITED KINGDOM ADMINISTRATION

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Cameroun Labour Party,  
National Secretariat,  
Commercial Avenue, P.O. Box 32,  
Mankon - Bamenda,  
Southern Cameroons.  
25 February 1961.

The Secretary General,  
United Nations,  
New York.

Sir,

NULLIFICATION OF NORTHERN CAMEROONS PLEBISCITE.

We of the Cameroun Labour Party in the Cameroons, wish you to look into the recent results of the Northern Cameroons plebiscite and further feel shocked and grieved at the entire occurrences which took place before the announcement of its results. We are setting out the points below to help you arrive at a justifiable conclusion in nullifying its entire results:

- (1) We firmly believe that the sole aim of the United Nations was to decide a joint future for the Northern and Southern Cameroonians, under British Administration, but not to watch the internal boundaries of sections.
- (2) By a resolution of the United Nations, both sectors of the Cameroons Trust Territory were to secede from the Federation of Nigeria after the former's independence in October 1st, 1960, but the Northern Cameroons continued being administered as part of Northern Nigeria after that period had elapsed, contrary to your U.N. decision. This was a well planned move,

hatched by the British imperial in order to shuffle Northern Cameroonians into Nigeria so as to enlarge the membership of their so-called Commonwealth.

(3) The plebiscite just held hastily followed one which decided their future being unification with the Cameroun Republic which caused Nigerians to interpret as hatred towards "Nigerians". This further caused the second plebiscite which actually was uncalled for and a mere attempt to suppress the genuine choices of the people.

(4) Votes from the Northern Cameroons should have counted together, since the Trusteeship Agreement overlaps the entire territory without any differences in sections. It is still unthinkable why and from where the question of separate counting and separate results must have arisen. Armed with this idea of a single Trusteeship Agreement, we implore you to demonstrate impartially, the truth in your accepting two plebiscite results from a territory under the same Trusteeship System, with no diverse traditions or cultures.

(5) Ample scope should have been given them for a separate Legislature but the Nig-British Government envied their separate stand as the case with a democracy to countries who honour and employ its policies.

(6) During the Plebiscite Campaigns, Nigerians lectured on platforms, Radio Broadcasts and through instructive literature. The issue of our future determination required only indigenous Cameroonians to explain all policies to their brethren but the influx of Nigerians, with the sum of at least £30,000 to help campaign in order to win confidence on the illiterate masses were meant to deprive and abuse the cherished rights of Cameroonians towards self-determination. We want to be told why the infiltration of Nigerians to that section was bluntly connived by your representatives the plebiscite administrators.

We maintain that it was a game concerning us, who should have cast wrong or right shadows to cover the future of this great country leaving outsiders to watch agape all eventualities and never to permit them to intimidate and give a say in the issue.

(7) As a point of achieving their aims, Traditional Rulers were appointed members in the Northern House of Chiefs. All roads in the Northern Cameroons

were and are being developed by the Nigerian Government and capital labour continues to be carried out in the area which has for forty or more years not smelt any share of their development projects. All their acts were and are calculated to bait and engulf our Northern Brothers into Nigeria.

(8) British Civil Servants took part in campaigning for intergration in line with the following political parties: "Northern Peoples Congress", "Northern Elements Progressive Union", "N.C.N.C.", "A.G.", and many others.

(9) Registration was only confined to places opting intergration with Nigeria and present statistical data proves that places favouring Unification with the Cameroun Republic show a decline in those who registered from those who mean much in population.

(10) During counting, the political parties there: "The Northern Cameroons Democratic Party", "The Northern Cameroons Freedom Party", were not represented. Pressure was brought to bear on them by outside forces and this victimisation and intimidation proves that the genuine wishes of the people were threatened and chased by the agents of Colonial imperialists.

(11) All these points were what caused the Northern Cameroons protest to the United Nations which alone prohesised the failure of the plebiscite before it was held.

(12) In view of the statement in the United Nations the Principal plebiscite Officer should have stated his concertration camp in the north, where culture, political scene and general advancement is absent rather than choosing the Southern Cameroons as his camp of settlement.

Sirs, In the light of these points, we implore you, to marshall facts that have caused this important decision to go in favour Nigeria with careful ingenuity, became their agents have also tried that in the Southern Cameroons but failed.

The rule of the democratic principles towards National issues was chased out and the influx of intergrationists manoeuvrers trampled on the peoples' minds and thus doomed their future determination in the fold of the Cameroons Nations.

This point prevails, when one looks at the previous plebiscite held there, whereby a large and dominating majority voted for secession from Nigeria.

We shall not accept, as a last resort, any plebiscite result that shall be enforced upon us from that section, unless the third is held, hence the second was possibly carried out.

Our deliberations towards honesty are excellent, second to none in the world, and we challenge the British and their Agents in Nigeria to refute all statements that they tampered greatly with our internal decision; that it was right to do so that they could allow outsider countries to meddle with their internal issues.

We support the stand of the Southern Cameroons Government and the Cameroun Republic Government on this issue and shall after this classification, accept your respected decision as worth complying to.

We have the honour to Remain, Sir,

(Signed) M.Z. ACHINI  
Signed: M.Z. Achini, National President,  
For and on behalf of the Cameroun Labour  
Party.

Copies to:

The Colonial Secretary, London.  
The Southern Cameroons Government, Buea.  
The Cameroun Republic Government, Yaounde.  
The Kamerun Times, Victoria.  
Radio Yaounde.

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