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PETITION FROM THE MBANG DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION CONCERNING  
THE CAMEROONS UNDER BRITISH ADMINISTRATION

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MEMORANDUM FROM MBANG DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION TO THE  
SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL  
ASSEMBLY, NEW YORK 1/

MBANG DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION IS AN ORGANISED BODY WITH SEVEN (7) BRANCHES IN MAMFE DIVISION AND A BRANCH IN GHANA, WHICH SUBMITTED A MEMORANDUM AND WELCOME ADDRESS TO THE UNITED NATIONS VISITING MISSION ON THE 1st NOVEMBER, 1958, AT MAMFE, SOUTHERN CAMEROONS.

Sir,

I am directed by the above mentioned Association to express the views of the people of Mbang who supported KNDP during the last General Election in the following terms based on political confusion in the whole Territory accruing from the KNDP political ideology of Secession and unification.

That the people of the Southern Cameroons resent any political bondage from any quarter in the territory. They are peace loving people and they like freedom, freedom of speech, freedom of assembly, freedom of religion, freedom of association and freedom of movement. That the Association viewed seriously the eight (8) stages of State Visit to Yaounde by Premier Mr. J.N. Foncha accompanied by Messrs Efiang and Nkemcha MHA, from Mamfe Division to negotiate with the French Premier, Mr. Ahidjo for unification without the knowledge and consent of the chiefs and people of the territory as a national crime committed against the Southern Cameroons nation. That the last general election, Mr. J.N. Foncha and his

1/ Delivered by hand to the United Nations Secretariat in New York City on  
25 September 1959.

political lieutenants told the people of the Southern Cameroons of Secession from the Federation of Nigeria and kept unification at a background. That if the people of the territory were made to understand that the territory would be drafted to join the French Cameroons who have different cultures and customs from the Southern Cameroons, they would have voted against the KNDP during the last general election.

That the Association designedly observed the political trends of the territory and found that they were being deceived by Mr. Foncha and his lieutenants. The Association wish to state emphatically that Mr. Foncha cannot fool all the people all the time, he can fool some of the people some of the time. That the malicious plans of the KNDP to expose the people of the Southern Cameroons to people who believed in mass atrocities without the slightest provocation had been revealed by Mr. Foncha's unstable statements of Secession and Unification in both French Cameroons and Southern Cameroons.

That the Association humbly and strongly appeal to the United Nations General Assembly now in session to view seriously the political problems confronting the people of the Southern Cameroons and give a final decision as to the appropriate and popular question to be used during the impending plebiscite in the territory. Once the Mamfe Summit Conference ended in a deadlock, the question should not be left in the hands of the KNDP disgruntled politicians who claimed to be dictators because they are in power. That the Association further wish to express that once secession and unification were the main objectives of the KNDP and continuous association with the Federation of Nigeria, the objective of the KNC/KPP alliance, it would be more appropriate to ask the people of the Southern Cameroons to express freely whether they prefer continuous association with the Federation of Nigeria or unification with the French Cameroons.

That the Association appreciates the policy of living with the devil you know than the devil you did not know. The Southern Cameroons had previously suffered a terrible set-back in education after the 1914 war and would not like it to be repeated after they have been brought up in the British way of life.

That the Association vehemently protest against any form of colonialism and imperialism in the Southern Cameroons. The policy of the KNDP advocating for secession from the Federation of Nigeria to remain under a modified Trusteeship

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Agreement was a move to nurse colonialism and imperialism in the territory the forces which every indigenous nationalist in Africa is fighting against. Mr. J.N. Foncha should be made to understand that he is stabbing the country at the back by committing this political blunders which may take the Southern Cameroons some fifty (50) years backward politically and that his attention should be drawn to the emerging political consciousness in Africa which every African state agitating for political advancement and African Independent States. The Southern Cameroons had been under the British Administration for forty (40) years and yet no development of any kind had been made in the territory, but suffered exploitation unimaginably shocking without protest. That the Southern Cameroons remaining under any form of modified Trusteeship Agreement when other African Nations attained independent will encourage communist infiltration in the territory and eventually its soil will be used as a military base for all powers. The Association wish to express in strong terms that the Trusteeship Agreement should be terminated forthwith, because the territory has not derived any substantial benefits from the Administrative Authority for the past forty (40) years continuous administration and that the Territory which was being exploited by these capitalist imperialists to enrich their own country and to keep the inhabitants of the territory down-troded will stand the chance of its own development.

That the KNDP Government who claimed popularity in the territory has started introducing political patronage in this undeveloped nation of the Southern Cameroons. If the KNDP Government were following the pattern of British Parliamentary democracy, the Association see no reason why political patronage should be introduced in the Southern Cameroons whilst it is impracticable in Great Britain. Certain posts in the territory had been considered to be redundant because the occupants of the posts believed to have belonged to an opponent political party. Although they have served for several years with no adverse report as to their conducts and efficiency yet the KNDP Government considered the posts as redundant. The Association also wish it to be known that the recent Bill passed in the House of Assembly at Buea as published in the Nigeria Daily Times on the 3rd September, 1959, to Cameroonise Corporations and Firms is very unpopular in the whole territory, for it appears the Corporations

and Firms may loose efficient workers who had served faithfully for many years. The Corporations and Firms are private enterprises. If Cameroonisation of private services is made a political issue in the Southern Cameroons, then the KNDP Government believes in autocracy than democracy.

On the contrast the Association observed during the Mamfe Summit Conference that no representative of the KNDP from Mamfe Division attended the Conference, but could see the conference hall packed with people from Bamenda and other grassfield towns and villages. That it was Mamfe Division who supported KNDP to win a majority of two (2) over the KND/KPP alliance in the last general election. It is also observed that during the distribution of Scholarship awards to the sons and daughters of the Southern Cameroons, Mamfe had only two (2) and the greater awards of twenty-six (26) went to Bamenda. These are some of the naughty points the Association wish to raise in conjunction with its strongest protest against unification and modified Trusteeship Agreement envisaged by Mr. J.N. Foncha and his Government.

That the Premier of the Southern Cameroons confused the issue involved in the Trust Territory of the Cameroons and the Trust Territory of the Togoland to achieve his political end. He told the people of the Southern Cameroons that the Trust Territory of Togoland integrated with Ghana and there was no development in that territory and that the Togolandians were being maltreated as inferior group in Ghana. He averred that the people of the Southern Cameroons will be treated the same if the Territory continue association with the Federation of Nigeria. That the British Togoland now Volta Region was administered jointly with the then (Gold Coast) now Ghana, having one Legislative Council now Ghana Parliament before plebiscite for integration or unification advocated by two main political parties; the Convention Peoples' Party and Togoland Congress. That the CPP won the integration and the territory continued with the same Ghana Parliament and administration. From this point of view the question of the Southern Cameroons is not the same. The Southern Cameroons as a nation has its own House of Assembly from any region in Nigeria with an impending independent Public Service. It also has an equal status in the House of Senate which the Association believed that the Southern Cameroons had been fortunate with such equal representations to the

House of Senate, taking its population into consideration. That the Premier Mr. J.N. Foncha studied the psychology of the people of the territory and knew their like and dislike - and told the people during electioneering campaign that Dr. E.M.L. Endeley and his lieutenants sold them to Nigeria especially the Ibo where he Dr. Endeley had a wife. The inhabitants of the territory noting the growing population of Ibo traders in the Cameroons, believed the story and some of the unreasonable Divisions in the Territory supported the KNDP to win only a majority of two (2) over the KNC/KPP alliance. That the closed up result during the last general election was an indication that the people of the Southern Cameroons with few exceptions have implicit confidence in the Leadership of Dr. E.M.L. Endeley and his KNC/KPP alliance Government.

That the last but not the least, the Association further maintained that the Premier Mr. J.N. Foncha has deliberately refused to reason intelligently the economic position of the territory. He had forgotten to calculate the exorbitant salaries of the EXPATRIATES he has started recruiting to the Public Service of the Southern Cameroons on contract and rather advocating for secession which if accepted will eventually create an economic impotency in the territory. The natural resources which the Premier is boasting of are not tapped and developed and no revenue will be accruing from them to develop the young nation of the Cameroons. That the people of the territory have not been aware of any provision made by the Premier to tap the natural resources. They therefore considered his boast of untapped resources as counting chicken before they are hatched.

That from the foregoing analysis enumerated above, the Association strongly oppose unification and demand continuous association with the Federation of Nigeria so as to enable the people of the Southern Cameroons to prepare themselves for internal Self-Government and Independent with Nigeria  
1st October, 1960. The Association further demand the question used in the plebiscite before Ghana became independent to be used in the plebiscite of the Southern Cameroons: "Continuous association with the Federation of Nigeria or unification with the French Cameroons."

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The Association further wish to make this observations that the result of the last general election which the KNDP Government claimed popularity in the Southern Cameroons was not won by two-thirds (2/3rds) majority to enable them to carry on with the Assembly business in case the opposition feel dissatisfaction in the debate and walk out.

On behalf of the Association,

I remain,

Yours in the service.

(Sgd) S.H. TAMBE

S.H. Tambe, General Secretary

Copy to Dr. THE HON.

E.M.L. ENDELEY,

OPPOSITION LEADER S. CAMEROONS

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