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PETITION FROM THE BALONDO SPEAKING PEOPLE'S CONVENTION CONCERNING
THE CAMEROONS UNDER UNITED KINGDOM ADMINISTRATION

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BALONDO SPEAKING PEOPLES CONVENTION

Balondo Speaking Peoples Convention,
c/o Post Box 28,
Kumba, Southern Cameroons.
27th February, 1961.

The Secretary-General,
United Nations,
New York,

The Secretary of State for the Colonies,
Colonial Office,
L O N D O N.

Sir,

Resolution on Future of the Balondos:

We the undersigned have been directed to convey to the United Nations through the Secretary-General, and to Her Majesty's Government through the Colonial Secretary, a resolution on their future taken at an extraordinary Convention of the Balondo Speaking tribes holden at Bole Village in Bakundu Clan Kumba Division. The Balondo Speaking tribe covers about two thirds of the area of Kumba Division of 4,100 sq. miles, and includes the following clans:- Bakundu, Baluo, Mbongo, Balondo, Ekombe, Barombi, Ngolo-Batanga, Bima, Korrup and Isangele. The area includes virtually all the land from the Northern slope of Mount Cameroon to the South, the boundary with Mamfe Division to the north, the main Victoria - Bamenda road to the East and the Atlantic Ocean to the West.

The resolution was carried unanimously by the two thousand village representatives at the Convention for transmission to the United Nations and to Her Majesty's Government.

THE RESOLUTION:

The Balondo Speaking Tribe having enjoyed a peaceful administration under the United Kingdom Government for well over fifty years,

Having developed a single culture education language and political system with the rest of our African brothers in the Federation of Nigeria,

Having voted overwhelmingly for "Green" indicating thereby as the attached schedule shows that the majority of our people prefer this choice of future for ourselves and our children,

Realising that the tribe is still his nation to the average Cameroonian and that people voted strictly according to their tribal interest and sentiment,

Knowing it as a matter of fact that this is the first time when we have ever been asked to choose the form of Government we shall have and we have freely chosen, each tribe according to its desire and free wish,

Knowing it as a matter of fact that what lies underneath the superficial entity of the Southern Cameroons is the real thing namely a bitter struggle between the Grassland tribes of Bamenda where Mr. Foncha comes from and the tribes of the Coastal area where Dr. Endeley and Mr. Mbile come from,

Knowing it as a matter of fact that the sinister motive of the Grassland tribes of Mr. Foncha in voting for the Cameroun Republic is in order to drag us to a lawless society where they will then seize our fertile lands which they greatly envy and then proceed to enslave ourselves and our children,

Whereas we know that the leaders of the Grassland tribes headed by Mr. Foncha are not interested in securing real unity and understanding with our coastal leaders, but are relying on mere numbers of their tribesmen in order to establish a primitive regime for the oppression of our people, when the British go,

Whereas we know it as a fact that the Grassfield tribes have no love for us but are secretly planning to re-introduce tribal wars as soon as the British go,

Whereas neither is Mr. Foncha nor Monsieur Ahidjo in a position to ensure us a system of Government in which our own leaders will participate and we ourselves enjoy peace, progress and stability, judging from their past performance,

/...

Whereas Independence which was in fact one of the main issues for attainment in the plebiscite questions will have no meaning under the type of chaos and insecurity prevailing in the Cameroun Republic and enevitable in a "Unified Kamerun",

The Convention resolves:-

- (a) That we stand by our inflexible faith even as our votes show that the best course for our future lies in continued association with the Federation of Nigeria.
- (b) That in view of the deep and bitter difference between our tribe and the tribes headed by Mr. Foncha the best solution to the Cameroons deadLock lies in PARTITIONING the territory between those who have chosen Nigeria and those who have chosen the Cameroun Republic. We refuse to accept Mr. Foncha's promised Eldorado, Let Mr. Foncha enjoy it alone;
- (c) That we on behalf of ourselves and our children yet unborn have chosen the British system of life and desire to enjoy the security and partnership existing in the British Commonwealth to which we shall belong through the Federation of Nigeria;
- (d) That a Boundaries Commission be appointed to demarcate new boundaries and talks be initiated by Her Majesty's Government on the new constitutional position consequential upon parition of the Southern Cameroons.
- (e) That a delegate be despatched to proceed to New York during the current sitting of the General Assembly to put forward the stand of the Balondo people and that permission be sought from the General Assembly to enable the delegate to secure oral hearing.

We humbly submit the above resolution to the United Nations General Assembly and to Her Majesty's Government and commend same for their favourable consideration.

We are Sir,

Your humble petitioners,

(Sgd.) Z.N. EFAMBA
GENERAL SECRETARY

(Sgd.) N.N. MBILE M.H.A.
GENERAL PRESIDENT

cc.

The Commissioner of the Cameroons,
The Prime Minister of the Federation of Nigeria,
The Premier of Eastern Nigeria.

/...

CAMEROONS PLEBISCITE RESULTS

KUMBA SOUTH EAST CONSTITUENCY - BALONDO AREAS

STATION	GREEN	WHITE	REMARKS:
Mbonge-Marumba	914	300	
Mbonge-Bekongo	287	1698	This is part of a pocket of KNDP strong hold within the Balondo tribe.
Bakumba	260	835	We suspect foul play with our boxes in this area. Although it is like above an island of white in a green sea.
Kombone	1817	949	Heavy settlement of Bamenda men at Kombone Mission.
Ekombe-Bonji	1444	1866	Heavily influenced a big settler population from Bamenda and Cameroun Republic.
Banga	508	892	Same as above.
C.D.C. Mbonge	103	132	Plantation workers are generally men from Bamenda and Cameroun Republic.
Total	5333	6672	

KUMBA SOUTH WEST

GREEN	WHITE	REMARKS
2424	2227	Most of the votes for white came from the plantations where most labourers are from Bamenda or the Cameroun Republic, or Nigeria. The Nigerians did not vote.

CAMERCONS PLEBISCITE RESULTSKUMBA NORTH WEST CONSTITUENCY

PLACE	Total Registra- tion	GREEN	WHITE	MAJORITY	
				GREEN	WHITE
Mofako-Balue	322	323	0		
Dipenda	321	319	1		
Dikome A	479	471	4		
Dikome B	445	443	0		
.....					
Betenge	603	503	4		
Mekoma	340	337	1		
Bonji	252	253	0		
.....					
Kumbe A	523	502	7		
Kumbe B	514	424	4		
Weme	427	406	0		
.....					
Bafaka	496	476	11		
Besoro	220	216	0		
.....					
Masore	252	233	2		
Kita	190	174	10		
.....					
Dikome Ngolo	564	563	0		
Madie	427	419	0		
Iwasa	422	415	1		
Ngamoki	471	448	0		
.....					
Toko	598	576	1		
Ndiba	531	519	0		
.....					
Beoko	450	448	2		
Dikuma	205	208	0		
Lipenja Muketi	244	213	0		
Lipenja	537	523	1		
Dienge	402	393	0		
.....					
Bombangi	305	307	0		
Esukotan	138	140	1		
.....					

PLACE	Total Registra- tion	GREEN	WHITE	MAJORITY	
				GREEN	WHITE
Beboka	214	207	0		
Fabe	245	242	1		
Massaka	252	252	1		
.....					
Ndian Town	243	186	46		
Ikassa	90	89	4		
.....					
Ekon	104	106	0		
Akpasang	106	109	0		
.....					
Supe l	318	295	12		
Suppell	340	302	41		
Ndoi A	320	254	53		
Ndoi B	413	225	150		
.....					
Atoki	430	421	0		
Wome	406	396	5		
Koba	376	363	2		
Ibemi	312	304	1		
Mbu	341	341	0		
.....					
Indian Estate (1)	248	150	90		
Indian Estate (11)	266	154	99		
.....					
TOTALS		14738	555		

SOUTHERN CAMEROONS PLEBISCITE RESULTS

BALONDO SPEAKING PEOPLE

The Balondo people for whom the Balondo Speaking Peoples Convention is the tribal organisation, spreads out into three of the four constituencies in Kumba Division.

Summary of the voting in the Balondo area is as follows:

Constituency	GREEN	WHITE
Kumba S.E.	5,333	6,672
Kumba S.W.	2,424	2,227
Kumba N.W.	14,738	555
Total	22,495	9,454
