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PETITION FROM MR. J.M., BOJA, M.H.A. CONCERNING THE
CAMEROONS UNDER UNITED KINGDOM ADMINISTRATION

(Circulated in accordance with rule 85, paragraph 2 of the rules
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J.M. Boja, M.H.A.,
Modelle,
Beba-Befang.
(Wum West).
Bamenda - S.Cameroons.
17/2/61

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

Sir,

Southern Cameroons Plebiscite

It is indeed very misleading of the majority the Southern Cameroons plebiscite has given the unificationists. I have to make it known briefly to the U.N.O. that the future of the Southern Cameroonian people has not been decided in a decent manner. The masses of the people voted very ignorantly during the plebiscite.

Why they voted ignorantly:

(a) They were intimidated by the Government Party the KNDP e.g. in a Chief's conference held in Victoria towards the Plebiscite the KNDP ranking members told the Chiefs that any chief who shall not campaign or vote for unification shall be deposed or deported.

Chiefs in turn asked their various subjects to vote for unification, some went as far as to compel their subjects to take oaths. A clear example of this is Abar a village in Fungom Wum North.

In Mukuru a village in Wum West the chief assembled all the voters about the sixth of February, 1961, and asked them to do mock polling. A white basin and

black head pan were produced, a white basin for unification and a black head pan for association (Federation with Nigeria). Every voter put each a small stone which represented a ballot paper in the white basin. It did not only happen in Mukuru but in most parts of the territory - Kom, Fungom Bafut etc.

Following up the result of the KNDP intimidation the Chiefs went as far as preventing the people from listening to the enlightenment lectures of the Two Alternatives by the Plebiscite Officers.

(b) They were deceived by the KNDP that they were to vote for "integration" and "secession" and not unification. This misinformation was chiefly done during door to door or house to house campaign. Even went as far as telling the people that the gradual unification after 15 years was only to deceive the One Kamerun.

The fact that an unofficial constitution titled Federal Republic Cameroun Constitution which was not included in the Two Alternatives confirms that the KNDP members were not straight.

(c) Tribalism is characteristic of KNDP. You would have heard of majority for unification even in Bakweri land which was not true. The majority was caused by Bamenda people who are workers and settlers in the Southern part of the Southern Cameroons. The campaign throughout the whole of Bamenda was a Forest region dweller (Dr. E.M.L. Endeley) versus a Grass Lander X (Mr. Foncha) in other words Bakweri versus Bamenda. So when the voters heard this they all voted one way. I definitely assure you and maintain that the people did not vote knowingly at all.

In concluding this brief report I maintain that the people of the Southern Cameroons decided their future under great pressure by the KNDP as Government Party or Party in power and ignorantly too. Otherwise they should have not left the known which is to preserve its entity by having regional status under its own name in the Federation of Nigeria to the unknown. As things have so happened in this way I do not think the plebiscite could hold water. If it does I as well as party and my supporters wish to put clear our minds that the only resolution to avoid the Congo situation in the southern Cameroons is to separate the unificationists from those who voted for the Federation of Nigeria. I do not think that if a Plebiscite District for example Wum West which voted one part

(Esimbi solidly) for the Federation of Nigeria and other one (Beba-Befang) for the Republic Cameroun could drag the whole people for unification.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Yours obediently,

(Signed) BOJA, M.H.A.

J.M. Boja, M.H.A.

c.c. The U.K. Plebiscite Administrator, Buea,
The U.N.O. Plebiscite Commissioner, Buea.
The Colonial Secretary, Colonial Office, London.
His Honour the Commissioner of the Cameroons.

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