

UNITED NATIONS
TRUSTEESHIP 1961
COUNCIL/SA COLLECTION



Distr.
LIMITED

T/PET.4/L.133
13 April 1961

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

PETITION FROM THE FON OF BUM CONCERNING THE CAMEROONS
UNDER UNITED KINGDOM ADMINISTRATION

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of procedure of the Trusteeship Council)

The Fon of Bum
Fon's Palace
Lagabum, Bum
Wum Division
Southern Cameroons

The Secretary-General
United Nations General Assembly
New York

Sir,

Petition against Unification with the Cameroun Republic

I, the Fon of Bum, on behalf of my entire Bum Clan in the Wum Division, Southern Cameroons, wish to place my petition before your august Assembly for your careful consideration. The prayer of my Petition is clear: that my tribe and myself do not want unification with the Cameroun Republic.

You will, sir, notice that the Bum tribe voted solidly for continued association with the Federation of Nigeria within the British Commonwealth of Nations. This was not done without reason.

My Clan has boundary with Nigeria and has been trading with the Federation long before the advent of the whiteman. The Germans met us trading with Nigeria. When the British took over the Cameroons from the Germans as a result of the 1914-18 War our trade and friendship with Nigeria increased considerably. Ever since we have shared one common tutor with Nigeria. We have the same law, method of education and in fact common outlook in life. We have learned to leave together peacefully for over forty years.

Unification will bring a complete change detrimental to our development; in fact it will only mean retrogression. Can the United Nations allow such unnecessary backward move of a nation?

My people and myself wish to emphasise that we are not prepared to forego our prospects of peaceful development within the Federation of Nigeria, and that we are prepared to join any tribe or groups of tribes in the Southern Cameroons favouring continued association with the Federation of Nigeria within the British Commonwealth of Nations.

I am, Sir, your humble petitioner, John Yai, Fon of Bum.

Resolution

I, the Fon of Bum and my Council, having studied with great care the conduct and the result of the Plebiscite held in our country on the 11th February, 1961; and having also foreseen the implications that will arise in the implementation of the Plebiscite result, have resolved as follows:

That we the people of Bum, having foreseen the impracticability and dangers of our joining the Republic of Cameroun, and having voted solidly for continued association with the Federation of Nigeria within the British Commonwealth of Nations, resolve that we will not join any tribe or group of tribes favouring union with the Cameroun Republic; but that we are prepared to join any tribe or group of tribes wanting union with the Federation of Nigeria within the Commonwealth.

(Signed) J. Yai, Fon of Bum
HRTI Ngai, Chief of Save Bum
HRTI Balah, Njifoba
HRTI Ful of Bum
HRTI Yangsi O. H. of Bum
HRTI Councillor Mbamfou

cc. The Secretary of State for the Colonies, London.
The Commissioner of the Southern Cameroons, Buea.
The Prime Minister of the Federation of Nigeria, Lagos.
The Leader of the Opposition, Cameroons House of Assembly, Buea.
