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PETITION FROM MR. MALLAM L.T. SALE, PRESIDENT OF THE MUSLIM CONGRESS PARTY CONCERNING THE CAMEROONS UNDER UNITED KINGDOM ADMINISTRATION

(Circulated in accordance with rule 85, paragraph 2 of the rules of procedure of the Trusteeship Council)

Muslim Congress Party Headquarters,  
Banso,  
Bamenda Division,  
Southern Cameroons.  
24th February, 1961.

The U.K. Plebiscite Administrator, Buea.  
The U.N.O. Plebiscite Commissioner, Buea.  
The Secretary-General, U.N.O. General Assembly, New York, U.S.A.  
The Colonial Secretary, Colonial Office, London.

Sir,

Petition by Mallam L.T. Sale, Leader of the Muslim Congress Party  
Southern Cameroons.

1. Voting was not fair and free:

Besides the fact that certain technical conditions required by the U.N. Trusteeship Council namely: the production of a constitution in the event of the Southern Cameroons electing to join the Cameroun Republic and the enlightenment campaign on the implications of the two alternatives were not fulfilled by both the KNDP as the Government Party and the Administering Authorities, the plebiscite in the Southern Cameroons was conducted in an atmosphere of pressure and fear caused by the Government Party the KNDP without effective checks. Whole plebiscite campaign was dominated by fanning of local and tribal prejudices group and sentimental pride, threats oaths and bonds, economic promises supply of salt, drinks, blankets, paying of taxes for people, money and other gifts by KNDP. Just before the voting day, all sort of juju things were performed by chiefs who had entered into bonds for a lot of reasons

to ensure that their people voted for the Government Party which they regarded as all powerful. In some places pronouncements were made by the chiefs and fresh eggs broken in the market to denote that any body who voted against the Government White box should die. On the actual voting day, some of the people appointed Polling marshals were servants of the chiefs specially selected to be there to watch the way the people voted in order to report to the chief the way the people voted. In some places Polling booths were so carelessly built that people in the waiting area could see exactly how the electorates voted. In some, juju men stood around the booths to direct the way voters should vote. Members from the Cameroun Republic resident in the Southern Cameroons and some crossing from the villages on the boundaries voted without any questions. C.P.N.C. and M.C.P. Polling Agents were driven from many Polling stations by order of chief and by hostile groups organised by the KNDP. In these Polling Stations with KNDP supporters as Presiding Officers, Polling Officers and marshals, everything went the way of KNDP into the white box. From the above points which are only a few, it is clear that the Plebiscite in the Southern Cameroons was not fair and free and that most people voted either in fear or for reasons other than unification.

## 2. The after voting re-action

The after voting reaction has created cause for anxiety. Some voters are already complaining that they voted into the white box to remain in the Southern Cameroons and join the British Commonwealth. On no account will they join the Cameroun Republic. Others are prepared to leave their homes and find new homes in parts of Nigeria to avoid joining the Cameroon Republic. Disagreements have arisen even among people of the same village to the extent that people who voted into the white box do not want to co-operate with those who voted into the green box. People in the Southern Cameroons are now thinking in terms of their village and tribal blocs and not of the Southern Cameroons as a unit. Those who supported Federation of Nigeria are being victimised by KNDP as the Government Party supported by members of the Cameroun Republic and refugees settled in the Southern Cameroons. The Muslims are being threatened with burning of their houses, deportations or loss of lives. Already about 40 Fulanis have left with their cattle. Some Hausas have also left and those remaining here are always being attacked by KNDP supporters. Provocation has become so prevalent that enmity among people grows in strength from day to day.

3. Submissions:

I submit that all the points raised in this petition be taken into account by the U.N.O. General Assembly when considering the interpreting the results of the Southern Cameroons Plebiscite votes. I request the Administering Authority to provide immediate protection on all Muslims and their supporters all over the Southern Cameroons from attack and victimisation by the KNDP.

Mallam L.T. Sale.

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(Signed) L.T. SALE  
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Leader of the Muslim Congress Party,  
Southern Cameroons.

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