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EXAMINATION OF THE ANNUAL REPORT ON THE ADMINISTRATION
OF THE CAMEROONS UNDER BRITISH ADMINISTRATION, 1957

Supplementary information submitted by the
Administering Authority

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION REGARDING DEVELOPMENTS
SUBSEQUENT TO THE PREPARATION OF THE REPORT OF
THE ADMINISTERING AUTHORITY FOR 1957

1. The principal events of 1958 have been the gradual implementation of the constitutional advance approved at the 1957 London Conference; the reaching of agreement with Her Majesty's Government on further constitutional advance in the future; and the visit to the Cameroons under British Administration of a United Nations Visiting Mission, which had, inter alia, the important task of making recommendations as to the method of consultation which should be adopted when the time comes for the Territory to express their wishes concerning their future.

Ministerial Government in the Southern Cameroons

2. The Ministerial system for the Southern Cameroons agreed upon at the 1957 London Conference came into force on 15 May 1958. Dr. E.M.L. Endeley, O.B.E., was appointed Premier. The appointment of five Ministers created an unofficial majority in Executive Council, and at the same time the Commissioner's reserved powers were reduced to those of a Regional Governor under the 1954 Constitution. Executive Council now became the principal instrument of policy for the Southern Cameroons.

3. Although the ministerial system was introduced in 1958, it was not possible to hold elections to the enlarged House of Assembly during the year. The new Electoral Regulations, which for the first time provide for election by universal adult suffrage, were ready in July. It was, however, found that it would be impracticable to hold an election in that month because the rainy season in the Southern Cameroons is so severe and prolonged that, apart from the difficulties of organizing the election, the voters themselves would in many instances have found it extremely difficult, if not impossible, to get to the poll. The House of Assembly was dissolved on 23 December and 24 January 1959 was appointed as the day for the elections.

4. The preparatory work for setting up the House of Chiefs is well advanced, and the House will be established early in 1959.

The Resumed Nigeria Constitutional Conference

5. In February 1958, a resolution was passed in the House of Assembly calling for the grant of full Regional self-government in 1959. Her Majesty's Government agreed that this demand should be placed on the agenda of the Resumed London Conference, which was convened in September to settle problems which were still outstanding from the 1957 Conference. Before Southern Cameroons affairs were considered by the full Conference, the Secretary of State held preliminary discussions with all delegates and advisers from the Southern Cameroons. The representatives of the Kamerun National Congress and the Kamerun People's Party stated that the major political objective of their parties was the attainment by the Southern Cameroons of the status of a Regional equal in all respects with the other Regions in an independent Nigeria. They were accordingly anxious to achieve rapid constitutional progress themselves to take their place in an independent Nigeria. The representatives of the Kamerun National Democratic Party said that their party did not wish the Southern Cameroons to become a permanent part of an independent Nigeria. Their objective for both the Northern and Southern sections of the British Cameroons was secession from the Federation of Nigeria. They were therefore opposed to further constitutional advance for the Southern Cameroons in any form which led to, or had as its objective, closer association with Nigeria. The Secretary of State took note of the

difference of view expressed. He said that although the undertaking given in 1953 to accord self-government to any Region that requested it had applied only to the Regions existing at the time and there was therefore no commitment on the United Kingdom to agree to further constitutional advance, he was nevertheless prepared to accept in principle that the Southern Cameroons should become, at the appropriate time, a Region fully equal in status to the other Regions of Nigeria. Such a development, by preparing the people for full self-government, would be in fulfilment of one of the basic objectives of the Trusteeship Agreement, while it would in no way commit the Southern Cameroons to permanent association with Nigeria, about which it would be for the people of the territory to express their wishes at the right time. In view of the Trusteeship Agreement it would be necessary for the United Kingdom to retain in the hands of a representative of Her Majesty reserve executive and legislative powers in respect of the Southern Cameroons. It was accordingly agreed with the Southern Cameroons representatives, and subsequently approved by the Conference, that no immediate constitutional changes should be made but that it should be open to the Southern Cameroons Government which would be formed after the elections to be held in January 1959, to request the United Kingdom to bring into effect all or any of the changes that are set out in Appendix A to this report. The Secretary of State undertook that the United Kingdom Government would then give effect to these changes forthwith in so far as they could be made without constitutional amendment, and that for the rest the necessary legal instruments should be prepared as soon as possible.

6. The Conference agreed to recommend that the Southern Cameroons House of Chiefs should for the present continue to be an advisory body, and that its members should continue to be appointed by the Commissioner of the Cameroons acting in his discretion, but that these arrangements should be reviewed between the Secretary of State and the Southern Cameroons Government towards the end of 1959.

7. The Conference noted that the 1957 Conference, in recommending the full representation of the Southern Cameroons in the new Federal Legislature and in particular in recommending that the Southern Cameroons should be equally represented in the Senate with the Nigerian Regions, had given implicit approval

to the attainment by the Southern Cameroons of full regional status. The Conference also noted that its endorsement of the Fiscal Commission's proposals and the helpful waiver by the Federal Government of interest on the advances made to the Southern Cameroons would result in a considerable improvement in the financial position of the Territory. The Conference accordingly confirmed that if this proved to be the wish of the people of the Territory, Nigeria would welcome the Southern Cameroons as part of the Federation, with the status of a fully self-governing region equal in all respects with the other regions in an independent Nigeria.

8. The Conference further agreed that the northern region should become a self-governing region within the Federation of Nigeria on 15 March 1959. The representatives of the Northern Cameroons stated that they wished to continue to be administered as part of the northern region and to share with it this further constitutional advance. It was appreciated that it would be necessary for the Governor to retain general reserve powers in relation to the Northern Cameroons to enable the United Kingdom Government as the Administering Authority to ensure the discharge of its obligations under the Trusteeship Agreements.

Finance

9. The Fiscal Commission, which examined the financial structure of the Federation early in 1958, recommended that the Southern Cameroons should be treated as a normal region of the Federation for revenue allocation purposes and that the constitutional grant system in operation since 1954 should be amended accordingly. This recommendation was accepted and is reflected in the 1958/59 estimates. Further changes recommended in the final Report of the Fiscal Commission and approved by the Resumed Conference are in the main favourable to the Southern Cameroons. At the Conference, the Federal Minister of Finance undertook to recommend to the Federal Government that, in addition to accepting the recommendation of the Report, the balance of the working capital advanced by the Federal Government should be converted into a grant, and that the Federal Government should also waive the interest due on this working capital.

10. In general the budgetary position is not yet strong, but the advantages derived from the recommendations of the Fiscal Commission combined with increasing

economic prosperity, have placed the Territory's finances in a much more favourable position than they were a year ago. The 1958/59 estimates anticipated a budgetary deficit of £212,000 but present trends indicate that this is likely to be converted into a surplus of some £90,000.

11. A second major change in the budgetary system took place during the year. As a result of a decision taken at the 1957 conference it became necessary to introduce legislation to modernize the control and management of the public finances of the Southern Cameroons. The requisite law was enacted by the Legislature in August 1958, and provides for the creation of a Consolidated Revenue Fund on the lines of the Consolidated Fund of the United Kingdom Government, into which all general revenues are paid. The law also set up other funds for capital development, contingencies, scholarships, water renewals, and three treasury funds to provide for advances to staff and treasury accounting transactions. This law represents an important step forward in the administration of the finances of the Southern Cameroons.

United Nations Visiting Mission

12. A visiting mission from the United Nations visited the Cameroons under United Kingdom administration from 28 October to 13 November 1958.

Law and order

13. The banning of the Union des Populations du Cameroun and its satellite organizations in 1957 was followed by several months of comparative tranquillity in the border area. Half way through 1958, however, the activities of French Cameroonian terrorists increased in intensity in the Mungo and Bamiléké regions of the Cameroons under French administration and it was found that many of the terrorists were using the Cameroons under British administration as a base for illegal activities on the other side of the border. A greater degree of police surveillance of the area has served to re-establish the rule of law in the Tombel area, and to restore the morale of law-abiding persons, which was becoming seriously impaired by the atmosphere of fear created by the activities of the terrorists.

14. In June 1958, an unsettled state of affairs developed in the Kom area of Wum Division. The women of Kom, whose economy is entirely agricultural, were disturbed by the application of contour-farming rules, the objects of which were not properly understood by the women. The women operated in well-organized bands and tried to assume judicial and administrative functions within the community; they also organized a boycott of the schools, which has been partially effective, and has had an unfortunate effect on the educational advancement of a backward area. Administrative action is being taken to remove the causes of the women's discontent. No serious breaches of the peace have taken place but it has been necessary to draft extra police into the area to preserve law and order and to bring offenders to justice.

Economic development

15. The co-operative system has continued to expand, the number of societies in the Southern Cameroons having increased during the year from 126 to 147, embracing a membership of over 12,000 with a turnover of £1,650,000. In July, a Co-operative Central Finance and Saving Society, which is in effect a co-operative bank, was started with the assistance of a loan from the Southern Cameroons Development Agency. Additional staff was posted to the northern part of the Territory where the number of societies has now increased to fifteen, including a fish sales co-operative at Wulgo on Lake Chad.

16. The exploitation of timber in the Southern Cameroons showed a considerable increase during the year, some 60,000 tons having been exported in the first eight months of the year. Revenue from this source is expected to total £90,000 for the full year. One hundred square miles of forest reserve were added to the forest estate in the northern part of the Territory.

17. In the north a scheme has been started in Dikwa Division for the growing of rice under irrigation. In the Southern Cameroons strenuous measures were taken to eliminate the taint of "smokiness" in cocoa which has hitherto placed Southern Cameroons cocoa at a discount on the world market. These measures met with a high degree of success.

Public works

18. Once again the main effort has been concentrated on the country's basic road communications. Principal developments were -

- (1) A further twelve miles of the Kumba-Mamfe road were reconstructed to all-season standards and forty-five miles were resealed with tar.
- (2) A further fifteen miles of the Mamfe-Cross River road were reconstructed to all-season standards.
- (3) All the bridges and culverts on the Kumba-Tombel road were completed and work has begun on the construction of the carriageway.
- (4) Work has commenced on the Kumba-Mbonge road.
- (5) The Uba-Bama trunk road A has been completed in Adamawa Province and has reached Gwoza in Bornu Province, and work has started on the difficult Jada-Sugu section of this trunk road, and also on the section between Bama and Maiduguri.
- (6) The bridges on the Donga Abong trunk road B are nearly completed. Ten miles of the Misaje-Bissaula section of this road which will provide a link between the northern and southern parts of the Territory, were completed to all-season standard.

Water supplies

19. In the northern part of the Territory the urban water supply at Mubi is now functioning and provides the town with 90,000 gallons of water a day. Twenty-one well teams are now operating in the northern area and £14,000 was spent on village wells in the course of the year.

20. In the Southern Cameroons the Bali water supply has been completed as has that at Kumba, each at the cost of about £23,000. The Nkambe scheme is almost complete. Materials have been assembled for the supply at Wum and work will soon start on that scheme. The materials have been ordered for the Tombel scheme and a design is now being prepared for a new supply at Victoria.

Education

21. (1) Seventeen new primary schools were opened in the Southern Cameroons and five in the north.

- (2) A further £30,000 from Colonial Development and Welfare grants was spent on the construction of primary school buildings in the Southern Cameroons providing a further sixty classrooms.
- (3) The first double stream class at the Southern Cameroons Protestant College for boys at Bali was enrolled in January 1958.
- (4) An ICA instructor arrived at the Teacher Training Centre, Kumba during 1958 and has been preparing for the holding of manual training classes in 1959.
- (5) The Bazza and Mubi Teacher Training Centres are now full grade III teacher-training centres. The practicing school at Mubi has been enlarged.
- (6) The Southern Cameroons Institute of Agriculture at Bambui began to function in August when in addition to the normal teachers rural science course, classes were instituted for the training of Agricultural Field Overseas and Forest Guards.

Medical and health

22. (1) The Nkambe Hospital, which is a joint enterprise run by the Mkambe Native Authority and the Roman Catholic Mission under Government supervision, was opened in May.
- (2) A new out-patient department and a maternity ward were added to the Kumba Hospital.
- (3) A sixteen bed ward was built by the Northern Regional Government for the Sudan United Mission Hospital at Gwoza.
- (4) An X-ray block and nurses quarters were added to the Mubi Government Hospital.
- (5) The Northern Region Government has allocated a total of £179,000 for medical development in the Trust Territory.
- (6) A new health centre at Tiko and new dispensaries at Widekum and Mbonge have been opened by the native authorities.

Communications

23. (1) New and enlarged post offices have been opened at Kumba and Tiko and work has commenced on a new post office at Mamfe. Post offices, with quarters for staff, are nearing completion at Bama and Mubi in the northern part of the Territory.

(2) New telephone exchanges have been installed at Kumba and Tiko and those at Buea and Victoria have been extended. An exchange has been installed at Bamenda and connexion to subscribers will be completed in 1959. Work continues on the VHF system at Buea, which, when completed will link the Southern Cameroons telephone system with Nigeria and the world beyond.

Victoria centenary celebrations

24. The Centenary of Victoria, which was founded in 1858 by the Baptist Missionary, the Rev. Alfred Saker, was celebrated in December. The celebrations were attended by His Excellency the High Commissioner for the Southern Cameroons and the Prime Minister of the Federation. A frigate of the Royal Navy, flying the flag of the Commander-in-Chief, South Atlantic, two ships of the Nigerian Navy and a detachment of troops from the Queen's Own Nigeria Regiment, and the regimental band participated in the celebrations, which were organized by a local committee; the Southern Cameroons Government staged a successful trade fair, the first of its kind ever to be held in the Territory, and an exhibition of arts and crafts, which for the first time assembled in one place a representative collection of Southern Cameroons antiquities and contemporary crafts.

Legislation

25. A list of legislation enacted by the Southern Cameroons Legislature and by the Northern Regional Legislature is attached as appendix B.

At the twenty-first session of the Trusteeship Council the representative of the USSR asked for figures of industries established in the Territory. The figures given below relate to establishments registered under the Factories Ordinance, 1955 -

<u>Industry</u>	<u>Number of factories</u>		<u>Total</u>
	<u>With power</u>	<u>No power</u>	
Printing	2	-	2
Motor vehicle repairs	10	-	10
Vegetable oil extraction	4	-	4
Marine engineering	1	-	1
Mechanical workshops	4	-	4
Locomotive and rolling stock	1	-	1
Electrical repair and maintenance	1	-	1
Woodworking, general	7	-	7
Stone crushing and grading	2	-	2
Electrical power generating	4	-	4
Banana drying and packing	-	4	4
Sawmilling	3	-	3
Rubber processing	5	-	5
Boatbuilding	1	-	1
Coffee processing	2	-	2
Agricultural plant maintenance and repair	1	-	1
Tea manufacture	1	-	1
	<u>Total</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>53</u>

At the same session the representative of the USSR asked for figures of the amount of cultivable land alienated for plantations and the amount available for the indigenous inhabitants. The figures are as follows -

Total area of the Trust Territory		Square miles 34,081
Deduct -		
Rivers and lakes	181	
Roads and tracks	86	
Towns and villages ^{1/}	590	
Forest reserves ^{2/}	2,382	
Uncultivable land ^{3/}	2,251	
Government stations etc.	14	
Missions	11	
Private holdings	0.5	5,515.5
Total cultivable area		28,565.5
Deduct plantations -		
Cameroons Development Corporation	377	
Southern Cameroons Development Agency	9	
Private enterprise	91	477.0
Area available for indigenous population	-	28,088.5

^{1/} Since in villages houses are surrounded by gardens, much of this area is cultivated.

^{2/} Farming is permitted in forest reserves where it is likely to benefit silvicultural operations.

^{3/} Includes swamps and hilltops not normally cultivated, though experiments have shown that much of this land is in fact cultivable; for example, rice can be grown in the swamps.

APPENDIX A

(a) The Executive Council

1. The Deputy Commissioner should cease to be a member of the Executive Council and the House of Assembly.
2. The Legal Secretary (or Attorney-General) should continue to be a public officer and to be a member of the Executive Council and the House of Assembly.
3. At a convenient time after the 1959 budget the post of Financial Secretary should be abolished and instead a Minister of Finance should be appointed.
4. There should be provision that the number of Ministers, in addition to the Premier, should be not less than four nor more than seven. Provision should be made for the appointment in addition of not more than three Parliamentary Secretaries.
5. The Commissioner should appoint the Premier and should, on his recommendation appoint other Ministers and Parliamentary Secretaries.
6. The Commissioner should continue to preside over the Executive Council, but this arrangement should be reviewed towards the end of 1959. The legal instruments should be so drawn as to make this possible without further amendment.

(b) The Reserve legislative and executive powers

These should be directly vested in the Commissioner, although there should continue to be provision on empowering the Governor-General as High Commissioner directions as to the exercise of the powers vested in him. If and when the Southern Cameroons becomes a self-governing Region the position of its constitutional head would be similar to that of the Governors of the existing regions in an independent Nigeria.

(c) Assent to legislation

Subject to the High Commissioner's power to give him directions, the Commissioner should assent to legislation.

(d) The Judiciary

One of the Judges appointed for the High Courts of Lagos and the Southern Cameroons should be specifically assigned to the Southern Cameroons so that he

would spend as much of the year as was necessary in the Southern Cameroons and be available in Lagos only for such time as he was not required in the Southern Cameroons.

(e) The Public Service

There should be a separate Public Service for the Southern Cameroons. All Southern Cameroonians serving in the territory would automatically be transferred to this Service. The remaining officers serving in the Southern Cameroons, both overseas and Nigerian, should remain on the Federal establishment and be seconded to the new Public Service. They should be given the option if they so wished of transferring to the new Public Service. All new recruits, whether from overseas, from Nigeria or from the Southern Cameroons itself, would be appointed to the new Public Service. It should thus be possible in the course of the next two years or so for the Southern Cameroons to build up the nucleus of a separate Public Service, even though it might have to rely in part after that period on officers from outside the Cameroons. It would of course be open to any Cameroonian now serving anywhere in Nigeria, either in the Federal or a Regional public service, to apply for transfer to the Cameroons service.

(f) There should be an advisory Public Service Commission for the Southern Cameroons, exercising the same functions in relation to the members of the Southern Cameroons Public Service as the Federal Public Service Commission now exercises in relation to the Federal Public Service.

APPENDIX B

SOUTHERN CAMEROONS ENACTMENTS PASSED IN 1958

- S.C. Law 1 of 1958 A Law to amend the Direct Taxation Ordinance.
- S.C. Law 2 of 1958 A Law to Amend the Criminal Procedure Ordinance.
- S.C. Law 3 of 1958 A Law to Amend the Southern Cameroons High Court Law, 1955.
- S.C. Law 4 of 1958 A Law to Provide for the Protection of Illiterate Persons
- S.C. Law 5 of 1958 A Law to Appropriate the sum of £1,915,315 to the Service of the Year ending on 31 March 1959.
- S.C. Law 6 of 1958 A Law to Provide for the Control of the Fermentation and Drying of Cocoa in the Southern Cameroons.
- S.C. Law 7 of 1958 A Law to make Supplementary Provision for the Service of the Southern Cameroons for the Year which ended the 31st Day of March, 1957 - £75,503.
- S.C. Law 8 of 1958 A Law to amend the Southern Cameroons Development Agency Law, 1956.
- S.C. Law 9 of 1958 A Law to Amend the Cocoa (Control of Preparation) Law, 1958.
- S.C. Law 10 of 1958 A Law to Provide for the Appointment, salary, Tenure of Office, Duties and Powers of the Director of Audit of the Southern Cameroons and for the Auditing of Public Accounts of the Southern Cameroons and for other Purposes incidental thereto and connected therewith.

(Audit Law, 1958).
- S.C. Law 11 of 1958 Supplementary Appropriation Law, 1958.
- S.C. Law 12 of 1958 Finance (Control and Management) Law, 1958.

Northern Region Enactments passed in 1958.

The Northern Region 1958-59

Appropriation Law, 1958	No. 1 of 1958
The Adaptation of Legislation Law, 1958	No. 2 of 1958
The Liquor (Amendment) Law, 1958	No. 3 of 1958
The Control of Travel Agencies Law, 1958	No. 4 of 1958
The Native Authority (Amendment) Law, 1958	No. 5 of 1958
The education (Amendment) Law, 1958	No. 6 of 1958
The Control and Management of Public Finances Law, 1958	No. 7 of 1958
The Northern Region 1958-59 Supplementary Appropriation Law, 1958	No. 8 of 1958
The Supplementary Appropriation (1956-57) Law, 1958	No. 9 of 1958
The Development Corporation (Amendment) Law, 1958	No. 10 of 1958
The Slaughter Stock (Control and Taxation - Amendment) Law, 1958	No. 11 of 1958
The Loans Law, 1958	No. 12 of 1958
The Pensions Ordinance (Amendment) Law, 1958	No. 13 of 1958
The Pensions (Northern Region New Officers - Amendment) Law, 1958	No. 14 of 1958
The Northern Regional Marketing Board (Amendment) Law, 1958	No. 15 of 1958
The Widows' and Orphans' Pension (Northern Region - Amendment) Law, 1958	No. 16 of 1958