

UNITED NATIONS  
TRUSTEESHIP  
COUNCIL



ON LIBRARY  
MAY 10 1960

Distr.  
LIMITED

T/PET.4/L.82  
28 April 1960

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

PETITION FROM MR. MALLAM L.T. SALE, PRESIDENT OF THE MUSLEM 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)

To the Secretary General,  
U.N.O. General Assembly,  
New York, U.S.A.

C/O Mallam L.T. Sale,  
President and Leader of the  
Muslem Congress party,  
P.O. BANSO, Bamenda Division,  
Southern Cameroons.  
12th April, 1960

PETITION

I have the honour to forward herewith for perusal by the U.N.O. General Assembly a copy of an address presented to His Excellency the Deputy Governor General of the Federation of Nigeria and High Commission for Southern Cameroons by the Muslem Congress (M.C.) a newly formed Political Party in the Southern Cameroons under my leadership.

2. As already shown in paragraph 2 of the address, this party fully endorses the two questions for the Southern Cameroons plebiscite as contained in the U.N.O. General Assembly resolution 1350 (XIII) of the 829th meeting of 16th October, 1959. The questions are indeed purposeful and have summarised the two political opinions long existing in this territory concerning the future of the Southern Cameroons. The terms of paragraph 8 page 12 of the 1958 U.N.O. Visiting Mission's Report are testimonies to what the party regards as the most appropriate questions for the plebiscite. Continuation of trusteeship mentioned in the report as suggested by the Administering Authority doing so in good faith and independence for the Southern Cameroons as an entity are local creations of sentiments and emotions without national or international stabilities on which the future of the territory reasonably depends. While the former will deprive the Southern Cameroons from achieving independence with other West African

territories, the latter will indeed constitute Southern Cameroons into a state of great political, social and economic instability. The two questions are therefore straight to the point and this party welcomes them. In this connection, this Party respectfully suggests that coloured diagram showing: (a) Southern Cameroons in between Federation of Nigeria and the Republic of Cameroons as the alternatives to which the two questions refer. (b) Two boxes one representing the Federation of Nigeria and the other representing the Republic of Cameroons again to which the two questions refer. Such diagrams large enough with short explanatory notes issued by either the Administering Authority or the U.N.O. Secretariat will be most helpful in educating the people preparatory to the plebiscite and will avoid distorting of the truth by ambitious politicians and their agents in a matter of this great national importance.

3. As regards paragraph 9 of the address, this Party feels strongly that a new situation has arisen in the Southern Cameroons legislature and submits that appropriate action be taken by the Administering Authority as soon as possible. The present parity in the elected membership of the Southern Cameroons legislature is a pointer to the fact that the two political opinions relating to the two plebiscite questions are now at par. This Party submits that unless one of the two groups forms a majority in the Southern Cameroons legislature, democratic justice and fair play make it incumbent on the Administering Authority to dissolve the legislature and conduct a general election on the two plebiscite questions or if the plebiscite must be conducted as already decided by the U.N.O. General Assembly, the Administering Authority should take early steps to bring about a national Government to give both groups equal opportunities of handling the day to day affairs of the Government of the territory during this crucial interim period. A Government that has no elected majority is dangerous to the wellbeing of this territory at this crucial period of the territory's struggle to determine its future.

We have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most humble petitioners,

(Signed) MALLAM L.T. SALE

Mallam L.T. Sale, Native of Benso,  
President and Leader of the M.C. for  
and on behalf of the Muslim Congress, S.C.

Copy Colonial Secretary,  
Colonial Office,  
Downing Street, London.

/...

AN ADDRESS PRESENTED BY THE MUSLIM CONGRESS PARTY TO HIS  
EXCELLENCY, THE DEPUTY GOVERNOR GENERAL OF THE FEDERATION  
OF NIGERIA AND HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR S. C. DURING HIS  
VISIT TO KUMBO, MONDAY, 11th April, 1960.

Your Excellency,

On behalf of the Muslim Congress (M.C.) a newly formed Political Party in the Southern Cameroons whose objectives inter alia is to campaign with all its forces against Unifying the Southern Cameroons with the Republic of the Cameroons. I welcome Your Excellency with great respects.

2. This Party which began its existence only two months ago, has already 30 working branches and supporters all over the six Divisions of the Southern Cameroons and its rapidly growing number of members and supporters can now be estimated at 80,000. The Party which is a creation of the sons and daughters of the Southern Cameroons is out to achieve as one of its great objectives the continuation of peaceful association with the Federation of Nigeria which achieve independence in the British Commonwealth of Nations. The Party upholds the decision of the U.N.O. General Assembly regarding the questions to be put to the electorates at the forthcoming Southern Cameroons plebiscite. It believes that in so far as independence is our national objective, the questions are indeed purposeful and have summarised the two political opinions long existing in the Southern Cameroons.

3. Fresh in our minds is the able advice of the British statesman of great national experience the then Colonial Secretary, the Rt. Hon. Lennox-Boyd who in 1957 Nigeria Constitutional Conference stated at page 25 among other things as follows: "But many of the best friends of the Cameroons do not foresee a destiny more likely to promote her happiness and prosperity than in continued association with Nigeria." Again, Sir Sydney Phillipson K.B.E. C.M.G. in his 1959 Report on Financial, Economic and Administrative consequences to the Southern Cameroons of Separation from the Federation of Nigeria states at paragraph 4 p. 2 as follows: "Indeed it is obvious without any special investigation, that for a small under-developed territory like the Southern Cameroons to detach itself from the relatively powerful and prosperous group of states which constitutes the Federation

/...

of Nigeria after over forty years of association is to create for itself a number of difficult problems which would otherwise be avoided. Fresh also in our minds is the statement at paragraph 85, page 33 of the 1958 Nigeria Constitutional Conference which conveyed the desire of the Federal Prime Minister and the Regional Premiers including Dr. Endeley, O.B.E. the then Premier of the Southern Cameroons for Nigeria with Cameroons to become a full member of the British Commonwealth and continue to maintain close co-operation between Britain and Nigeria.

4. As regards fiscal arrangements, fresh in our minds are the recommendations of Sir Jeremy Raisman's 1958 fiscal Commission which were accepted at paragraph 36, page 16 of the 1958 Resumed Nigeria Constitutional Conference. In addition, paragraph 45 of the same Conference Report implied that review of the Raisman's fiscal arrangements should be made in period of time not less than three or not more than five years from the date of the introduction of the new system. Again, such a review would be based on the principles set out by the Raisman's fiscal Commission regarding population, balanced development and minimum responsibility tempered by the principle of contiguity.

5. As regards maintenance of law and order fresh in our minds are the terms of paragraphs 8 - 17, pages 8 - 11 of the 1958 resumed Nigeria Constitutional Conference which inter alia make Police a Federal Gov't responsibility administered by a Council in which the Prime Minister and Premiers of the Regions including Southern Cameroons as well as Senior Federal and Regional Police Officers will be represented - Officers advising and making suggestions but not entitled to membership and therefore not Voting. It is to this Party's knowledge that Continued association with the Federal Nigeria in the British Commonwealth of Nations guarantee defence from any external oppression. On that score Southern Cameroons is locally and externally secured.

6. As regards Justice, fresh in our minds are the terms of paragraph 25 - 30 pages 13 - 14 of the 1958 Resumed Nigeria Constitutional Conference which inter alia recommend enlargement of the Federal Supreme Court by adding to its membership as ex-officio the Chief Justices of each of the Regions which include the Southern Cameroons. Fresh also in our minds is the Appellate Jurisdiction of the Federal Supreme Court as stated in paragraphs 71 - 72 pages 28 - 29 of the same Constitutional Report. The powers to safeguard the Nation as stated in paragraph 77 pages 30 - 31.

/...

7. As regards Fundamental Human Rights. This Party is fully aware of the terms of paragraphs 6-7 covering pages 3-8 of the 1959 Constitutional Report.

8. This Party has gone into rather repeating the obvious by making a lot of references into the Constitutional Reports to show that it is fully aware of Southern Cameroons safeguards and security in the Federation of Nigeria which will achieve independence in the British Commonwealth of Nations. A position which the greater majority of the people of the Southern Cameroons appreciate but the Gov't Party with its secession and unification mania is confusing the issue at stake by presenting a blank cheque of Republican unification and virtually dragging this beloved territory from political, economic and social stability into the UNKNOWN. This Party has been greatly alarm at the fact that inspite of timely advice by the Rt. Hon. A. Lennox-Boyd repeated by Sir Sydney Phillipson only a few months ago - paragraph 3 of this address refers - the Gov't. Party continues to match on to the UNKNOWN. Unknown because as the last paragraph of H.E. the Commissioner's speech in 1960-61 Southern Cameroons Budget Session held in March 1960 implied, the position of the Southern Cameroons in the Federation of Nigeria is known as indicated in the Constitutional Conferences held in London in 1957 and 1958 but Constitutional, fiscal, economic and cultural position of the Southern Cameroons in the Republic of the Cameroons is still to be determined by discussions. This Party is happy that the territory's experienced firm and far seeing opposition will be represented at the discussions.

9. Nevertheless, the Cameroons people are understanding the position and God is helping the Cameroons. The recent corssing of the carpet by Mr. Boja M.H.A. member from Wum West and the popularity of the newly formed Muslim Congress, the political Party now sponsoring this address are clear proofs of the unpopularity of the secession and unification policies of K.N.D.P. Government. The parity in the elected membership in the legislature is a pointer for H.E. to act upon and dissolve the legislature so that the Cameroons people may select their new Government on the questions proposed for the plebiscite: thus blasting away unification, saving the territory from its present political, social and economic deadlock as well as avoiding expensive, time consuming and worrisome plebiscite. But if a plebiscite must be conducted as a ruling of the U.N.O. General Assembly, a national Government should be formed forthwith to give both sides of the legislature equal opportunities in handling the affairs of the territory now and during the plebiscite. This Party feels strongly that the

/...

idea of a national Government in a situation where the Parties are so sharply divided in national political opinions should be formulated by the Higher Authorities to achieve a smooth running of the day to day business of Gov't during the interim period. This Party is sure that H.E. the Administering Authority and the Government of the Federation which the Southern Cameroons is still a part can easily arrange a national government without prejudice to the plebiscite. In the absence of dissolution of the legislature in view of the parity of elected membership this party will deplore any party having the advantage of running the Gov't. of the territory unless that party commands a majority of elected members in the House.

10. Finally, this party thinks it was unfortunate that Southern Cameroons was excluded from the last Federal Election when her neighbour the N.C. subjected to the same plebiscite took part and is represented in the Federal Legislature. The party trusts that Federal Government will continue to have Southern Cameroons as part and parcel of the Federation not minding the reverses which this party believes arose from confusion among the uninformed masses.

In this connection this party wish:

(a) To thank H.E. and the Federal Gov't for supplying soldiers and police to protect the Southern Cameroons from terrorism of the Cameroons Republic.

(b) To ask H.E. and the Federal Gov't to keep the soldiers in the territory till after the plebiscite.

(c) To ask H.E. and the Federal Gov't to authorise the sending back to the Cameroons Republic of all the terrorist refugees who are both a source of political, social and economic danger in the Southern Cameroons.

This party wishes H.E. a safe return to Lagos and trust that the points raised in this address will be sympathetically treated for the good of the

majority of the Southern Cameroons people whose Gov't no longer commands majority and popularity.

We have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your Most respectful people.

(Signed) MALLAM L.T. SALE

MALLAM L. T. SALE

(Native of Banso)

PRESIDENT AND LEADER M.C. FOR THE  
MUSLIM CONGRESS

VTL:Tar.

-----