

UNITED NATIONS
TRUSTEESHIP
COUNCIL



Distr.
LIMITED

T/PET.4/L.85
2 September 1960

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

TWO PETITIONS FROM CHIEF STEPHEN E. NYENTI, LEADER, CAMEROONS COMMONERS CONGRESS
CONCERNING THE CAMEROONS UNDER UNITED KINGDOM ADMINISTRATION

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

I

Our Ref.CCC/38.
Chief Stephen E. Nyenti,
Southern Cameroons, West Africa,
10th June, 1960.

H.A. Wieschhoff Esq.,
Director,
Division of Trusteeship.

FUTURE OF ENGLISH SPEAKING CAMEROONS

Sir,

Thank you very much for your letter No. T/PET.4/L.81 of 11 April 1960. This is to inform you that since October 1959, when the General Assembly reached a decision that two questions be put to the people of the Southern Cameroons at the forthcoming plebiscite, the whole political atmosphere has changed because the two questions - merging with Nigeria or merging with Cameroun Republic - do not meet with the wishes of English Speaking Cameroonians. Most of them want to see their territory achieve full independence with their own Parliament which should be recognised and treated with full dignity by other nations. After this recognition, the territory may confederate with any helpful neighbour if it is absolutely necessary.

2. The attached diagram may reveal what is in the minds of most English Speaking Cameroonians. They know that the territory is small. But they maintain that it will be destructive to merge the territory with a large nation. The smaller the cord the less will it bear to be stretched and the worse is the policy to stretch it unless it is intended to break it.

3. I also wish to inform you that there are many political parties in the territory today. These fall into three district groups. One group stands for Nigeria nation, another for Cameroun Republic nation and another for English Speaking Cameroons Nation. Please, give us the guarantee that none of these parties will be banned immediately after the plebiscite and that they shall continue to exercise freedom of speech and freedom of choice till an election to the Southern Cameroons House of Assembly takes place.

While we are anxiously waiting to receive your guarantee,

I am, Sir,
Yours truly,
For and on behalf of the Party,

(Signed) S.E. NYENTI

(S.E. Nyenti), Leader,
CAMEROONS COMMONERS CONGRESS.

Our Ref.CCC/38B.
Chief Stephen E. Nyenti,
c/o Catholic Mission,
Mamfe, Southern Cameroons,
10th May, 1960.

President M. Ahmadou Ahidjo,
Cameroun Republic,
Yaounde.

The Prime Minister,
Alhaji Sir Abubaka Tafawa Balewa,
House of Representatives,
Lagos.

Sirs,

Copy for your information, please.

We all want permanent peace. We should, therefore, clear the air of the following doubts before the plebiscite arrives.

Questions to President, Cameroun Republic.

- (1) In the event of reunification, which will be the official language - the French or the English?
- (2) Which money will be used - the franc or the sterling?
- (3) Will the English Speaking Cameroons be obstructed from taking a seat in the United Nations?

Questions to Nigeria Parliament through the Prime Minister.

- (1) Will Nigeria promise that English Speaking Cameroons will not be obstructed from taking a seat in the Commonwealth and another in the United Nations?
- (2) Will the name Federation of Nigeria be amended to read Confederation of Nigeria and the Cameroons?
- (3) Can Nigeria and Br. Cameroons have one monetary zone and agree on some form of defence pact?

At the moment the territory is suffering from political apathy. The quicker you answer the above questions, the quicker you will be enlightening us to find our ways. None of you should feel disappointed at our present stand. The darkest hour of the day is nearest dawn.

I am, Sirs,
Yours sincerely,
For and on behalf of the party,

(S.E. Nyenti), Leader, CCC.

/...

Our Ref. CCC/38B
Chief Stephen E. Nyenti,
c/o Catholic Mission,
Mamfe, Southern Cameroons,
West Africa.
10th June, 1960.

Honourable Iain Macleod,
Secretary of State for the Colonies,
10 Downing Street, London.

Sir,

Copy for your information, please.

Our main concern is not to see English Speaking Cameroons nation drifting about. Supposing the majority of the electorate choses reunification with the French Speaking Cameroons Republic, how can the territory be got on acceptable terms with the Cameroun Republic? Supposing the terms are not acceptable, where shall the territory be abandoned? Can't we remain a Commonwealth territory?

I am, Sir,
Yours faithfully,
(S.E. Nyenti)

Our Ref. CCC/38C
10th June, 1960.

President Sekou Toure,
Guinea Parliament, Guinea.

Mr. Krishna Menon,
India Parliament, Delhi.

Sirs,

Copy for your information, please. Thank you very much for piloting our case in the U.N. in October 1959. Words seem to fail this party (CCC) in expressing their gratitude to you.

2. Promise this party that whenever you go back to the U.N. you will not forget the English Speaking Cameroons territory and her desire.

I am, Sir,
Yours sincerely,
For and on behalf of CCC,

(S.E. Nyenti), Leader,
CAMEROONS COMMONERS CONGRESS.

Our Ref.CCC/38D.

Chief Stephen E. Nyenti,
c/o Catholic Mission,
Mamfe, Br. Cameroons,
West Africa, 10th June, 1960.

Dear Colonel Tufton Beamish, M.C., M.P.,
House of Commons,
London.

Sir,

This is to acknowledge receipt of the Colonial Secretary's letter together with yours of 9th May, 1960. The territory has now been taught its right to full independence. It will either demand full independence or not have it at all. It is suicidal to join another nation without knowing the terms of partnership.

I am, Sir,
Yours very sincerely,

(S.E. Nyenti)

Our Ref.CCC/38E.

c/o Catholic Mission, Mamfe.
10th June, 1960.

The Commissioner,
Southern Cameroons,
Buea.

Sir,

Copy for your information please. This is just to keep you abreast with new developments in the Territory.

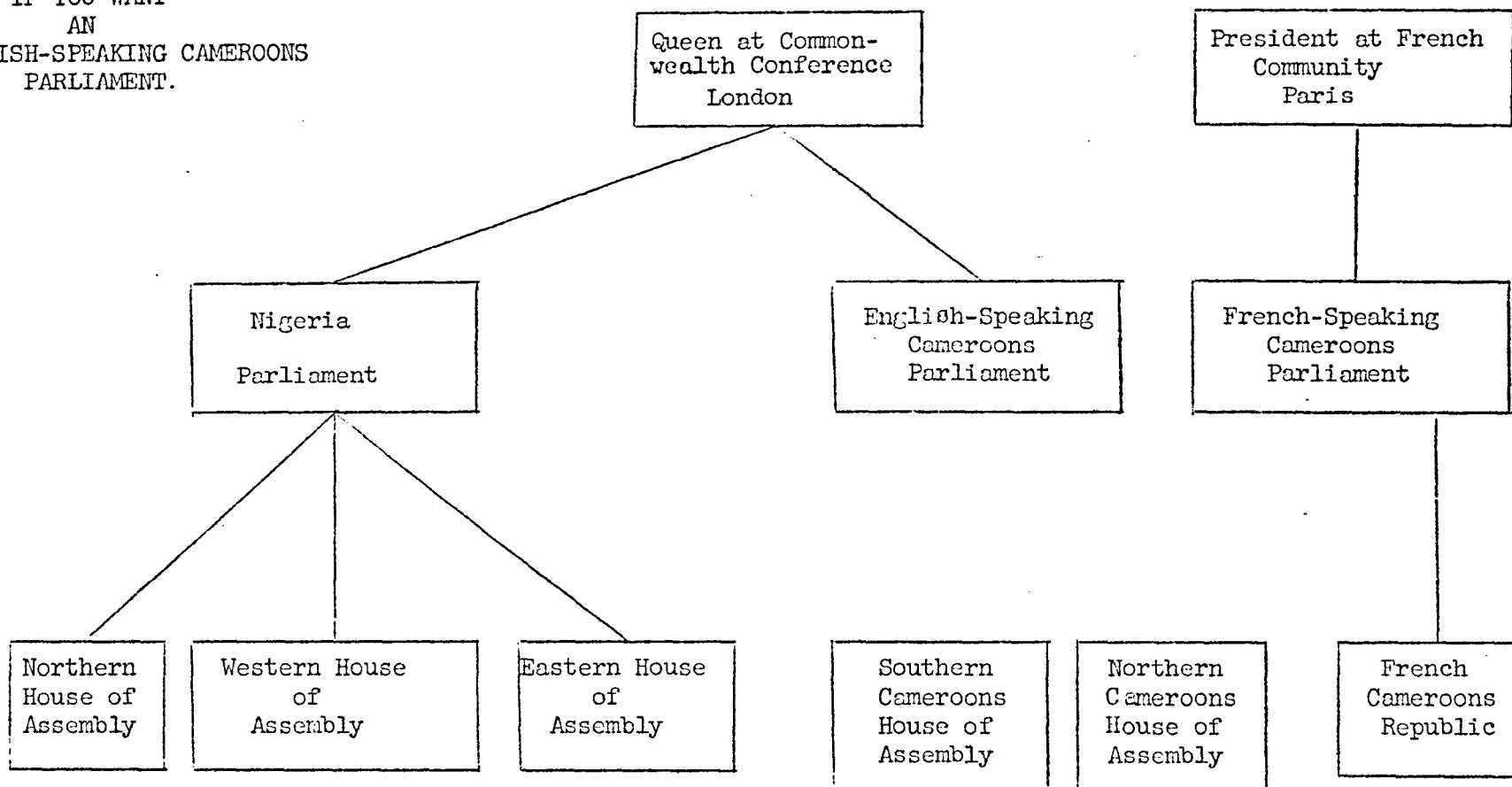
Yours sincerely,

(S.E. Nyenti)

Copied Hon. J.N. Foncha, Premier Southern Cameroons, Buea.
Dr. the Hon. E.M.L. Endeley, Leader of Opposition, Buea.
Dr. the Hon. Nnamdi Azikwe, President, Nigeria Senate, Lagos.
Chief the Hon. Obafemi Awolowo, Leader of Opposition, Lagos.
Dr. the Hon. Chike Obi, Leader Dynamic Party, N.P., Lagos.
Dr. K.O. Mbadiwe, Leader, D.P.N.C., Aba.

/...

VOTE FOR CCC
IF YOU WANT
AN
ENGLISH-SPEAKING CAMEROONS
PARLIAMENT.



II

Our Ref.CCC/39.
Chief S.E. Nyenti,
c/o Catholic Mission, Mamfe,
Southern Cameroons, West Africa.
20 June 1960

H.A. Wieschhoff Esq.,
Director,
Division of Trusteeship.

FUTURE OF ENGLISH SPEAKING CAMEROONS

Sir,

Further to our letter No. CCC/38 of 10th June, 1960, the Cameroons Commoners Congress and the Kamerun United Party have decided to convey to you and through you to the Trusteeship Council that most English Speaking Cameroonians are prepared to register for the forthcoming plebiscite but to boycott it if this third question - Do you want to stand as an independent English Speaking Cameroons Nation between Nigeria and French Speaking Cameroons Nation? - is not inserted in the two humiliating and annihilating questions of merging with Nigeria or merging with French Speaking Cameroons Nation.

2. As a result of this boycott, the Cameroons Commoners Congress and the Kamerun United Party have estimated that about 75% of the natives, who will register for the plebiscite, will not go to the poll. Will you regard the plebiscite successful if only 25% voters went to the poll to vote for either merging with Nigeria or merging with French speaking Cameroons Nation? What will happen if the result of the plebiscite does not reflect the wishes of the majority in the territory?

3. We are anxiously waiting for the reply to these two questions and for the guarantee sought in our letter No. CCC/38 of 10th June 1960. As the plebiscite approaches, some voters become more and more worried and others show lack of interest at the two destructive questions. The sooner you answer this letter, the quicker you will be relieving the English Speaking Cameroons territory from nation wide grief.

We are, Sir, Yours truly,
For and on behalf of the Party,
(Signed) S.E. NYENTI
(S.E. Nyenti), Leader,
CAMEROONS COMMONERS CONGRESS

Copied the Commissioner, Southern Cameroons, Buea.
Colonel Tufton Beamish, M.C., M.P., London.
