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PETITION FROM THE IBADAN KAMERUN STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION
CONCERNING THE CAMEROONS UNDER BRITISH ADMINISTRATION

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IBADAN KAMERUN STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION
ISKA

c/o Mr. H.N. Agbor,
Tedder Hall,
University College
Ibadan, Nigeria

Ref No. 58/C/A003

Date 19th March 1958.

President: J.N. EKANG
Secretary: H.N. AGBOR

The Chairman,
Trusteeship Council,
U.N. Headquarters,
New York.

Dear Sir,

Enclosed is a copy of a communique of the resolutions taken at the last General Meeting of the IKSA, the Association of Cameroons students studying in the University College and other institutions of higher learning in Ibadan, the educational centre of the Federation of Nigeria.

Sir, the situation in the Southern Cameroons is grave at present because the administering Authority seems to be endeavouring to use certain personalities in the undemocratically installed Southern Cameroons house of Assembly to swindle the territory into integration with an independent Federation of Nigeria, an idea abhorred and vehemently opposed by the masses and populations of the territory.

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We pray the U.N.O. to show as much concern for small nations as it does for large, and your Council to bring pressure to bear upon the British representative to urge his Government to

- (a) rescind the decision of the Southern Cameroons Government to disfranchise French Cameroonians resident in the territory.
- (b) refuse to give assent to any move of the Southern Cameroons Government to implement any decisions of the last London Constitutional conference, until a general election is conducted and a more democratically elected Assembly is installed.
- (c) demand the U.N.O. to take appropriate steps forthwith towards ascertaining the wishes of the people of the Southern Cameroons vis-a-vis integration into Nigeria which is due to become independent soon.

I am, Sir,

Yours faithfully,

(Signed)

H.N. AGBOR

H.N. AGBOR

(S E C R E T A R Y)

IBADAN KAMERUN STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION
IKSA

Ref. No. 58/C/A002

19th March, 1958

The Chairman,
Trusteeship Council,
U.N. Headquarters,
New York

Dear Sir,

At the general Meeting of the IKSA, the Association of Cameroons Students studying in the University and other institutions of higher learning in Ibadan, the educational centre of the Federation of Nigeria, the following motion was passed unanimously.

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"Whereas the ultimate unification of the Cameroons is our devout hope; and whereas the French Government is doing all in its power to make this objective a mirage, and whereas we are acquainted with the painful incidences that occurred in 1955 when the last U.N.O. Visiting Mission came out; how the French suppressed the Cameroonians from speaking out their minds freely to the members of the Mission by charging the atmosphere with police hostilities and how when some of the French Cameroonians in their attempt to cross over to the British Cameroons where they could air their views in a free and fair atmosphere were intercepted by the armed forces and actually massacred; and in the light of the fact that a motion was tabled and passed early in December 1957 to the effect that a Visiting Mission extraordinary should be sent out early this year; and whereas we may therefore expect this Mission within the first half of this year, I hereby move

(a) That this Association send a petition to the Trusteeship Council as soon as practicable praying it to use all the means within its resources to make France leave a free and fair atmosphere in the French Cameroons during the visit of the Mission so that the French Cameroonians may be able to present their views without any fears of victimisation. Further that during the Mission's visit, the French Government Officials, be in so far as possible, stopped from interfering with its interviews.

(b) That this Association should prepare a memorandum to be presented to the visiting Mission when it comes out. That in this memorandum we should show our case clearly and the dangers we stand in if our unification is not effected in the shortest possible time".

I have been asked to bring this to your notice and emphasize the fact that unless definite measures are taken by your council to the contrary,

(a) The politics of excessive repression which France is waging at present in the French Cameroons through her so-called "Cameroonian Government" might be continuing even during the tour of the forthcoming Visiting Mission.

(b) As in 1955 the chiefs and people of the French Cameroons, who are not French stooges and who form the overwhelming majority of the population, would not be given a fair opportunity by the French Authority to present their case to the Mission.

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- (c) Your Council's purpose for sending a Mission would be defeated since the report, like the Dorsenville report of 1955, might tend to be one-sided, to the detriment both of France and of the Cameroons and to the disrepute of the United Nations Organisation.

I am, Sir,

Yours faithfully,

(Signed)

H.N. AGBOR

H. N. A G B O R
(S E C R E T A R Y)

IBADAN KAMERUN STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION
IKSA

Ref. No. 58/Com/3

19/3/58

C O M M U N I Q U E

Following the passing through the Cameroons House of Assembly of several motions which have much to do with the destiny of the Southern Cameroons, the Ibadan Kamerun Students' Association called an emergency general meeting at University College Ibadan on Saturday 15th February to examine in all their ramifications, all the measures being pursued, to make its opinion known to the parties concerned and take action where it is necessary and constitutional. After long and grave deliberations the Association took the following decisions:

(1) The Association deplored the move to disenfranchise French Cameroonians resident in the Southern Cameroons and resolved that if that motion is effected, it would press that Nigerians resident in the Southern Cameroons also be disenfranchised. It said that Mr. Motomby-Woleta's argument that French Cameroonians are an interested party to the question at stake and would intend to vote on masse for secession, is equally - perhaps even more clearly - applicable to Nigerians resident in the Southern Cameroons. It said that either the question of integrating into Nigeria or unifying with the French Cameroons alone, or it is decided by everybody resident in the Southern Cameroons and qualified

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without prejudice to vote and be voted for. It said that owing allegiance to a foreign power which Mr. Motomby-Woleta, the mover of the motion, referred to, could not be considered as a justification for the disenfranchisement of French Cameroons, for the Association did not see why Nigerians, Ghanaians, Rhodesians, West Indians, Sierra-Leonians, who also owe allegiance to their respective home governments, should be considered eligible to decide the fate of the Southern Cameroons simply because they belong to the British Empire and Commonwealth, while fellow Cameroonians from the French zone who have been living in the Southern Cameroons for upwards of ten years are refused the right.

(2) It doubted whether it was proper by democratic principles and Constitutional law to implement decisions of a conference, which are so dependent on other decisions taken by the same conference, where such "other decisions" have not yet been fulfilled. In any case it thought that to strive to have Ministers before the general elections is not in the interest of the people of the Southern Cameroons.

(3) It also thought that if the forthcoming general elections are going to be decisive on the integration - secession issue, they the British Government should ask the U.N.O. to send a Commission to supervise it in order to prevent irregularities and ensure fair play. It pointed out that such a step has already been taken in French Togoland vis-a-vis the forthcoming general elections there.

(4) It also decided that the question of reviewing the Trusteeship Agreements should not arise until after the Chiefs and people of the Southern Cameroons have pronounced themselves definitely for integration or secession.

It resolved to present these views to the British Government, the U.N.O. Trusteeship Committee, the Governor-General of the Federation of Nigeria, the Commissioner of the Southern Cameroons the Leader of Government in the Southern Cameroons, and the Leader of Opposition in the Southern Cameroons.

(Signed) H.N. AGBOR
H.N. AGBOR
(SECRETARY)

19/3/58
IBADAN.
