

## Ambazonia vs. La Republique du Cameroun

June 1991 OAU Summit in Abuja Nigeria

### CHARGE:

#### **ILLEGAL OCCUPATION OF AMBAZONIA BY LA REPUBLIQUE DU CAMEROUN**

AMBAZONIA (then described as the Trust territory of the Southern Cameroons under the United Kingdom Administration) negotiated and concluded a treaty with Cameroon on the basis of mutual sovereign equality.

A treaty which created an INTER-PARLIAMENTARY UNION

The treaty created a Federal legislature to which each country sent representatives. The Treaty changed the status and identity of each country. The Republic of Cameroon became a federated state, and its identity became East Cameroon. Ambazonia also became a federated state and its identity became West Cameroon.

The Treaty became the fundamental law or the constitution of the INTER-PARLIAMENTARY UNION, (to be cited locally as the Federal Constitution or the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Cameroon.) *Note –the author at time of the above assertion was not yet aware of the first international treaty (the Two Alternative or the Plebiscite Pact).*

### REVISION OF THE TREATY [Article 47]

- (a) The Treaty may be revised ONLY BY A LAW PASSED BY THE FEDERAL PARLIAMENT.
- (b) 50% of the Deputies representing any federated State may veto a bill proposing revision of the treaty by voting against the bill.
- (c) No bill intended to impair federalism may be introduced, and if introduced, shall not be countenanced at all by parliament.

### TREATY REPUDIATED BY PROCLAMATION

One morning the President Ahidjo (deceased)-- who even his hand picked protégée successor, Paul Biya recently acknowledged in a speech to have placed the country under 20 years of tyranny

-- simply issued a proclamation:

- (I) abolishing the treaty,
- (ii) abolishing the Government and Parliament of Ambazonia,
- (iii) moved troops and occupied Ambazonia,

- (iv) divided Ambazonia into provinces, and since then
- (v) Ambazonia has been ruled by Governors appointed by Yaounde [the capital of the Republic of Cameroon].

**REDRESS SOUGHT** Ambazonia calls on the international community to compel the Republic of Cameroon to withdraw from Ambazonia.

**RECALL:** It is by virtue of that Treaty that Yaounde had any AUTHORITY IN AFFAIRS OF AMBAZONIA, and only in specific federal subjects. Once the Federation collapsed, Yaounde has no more authority over Ambazonia whatsoever.

**THEREFORE:** Yaounde's presence in Ambazonia is even worse than colonialism. For the colonial power usually exhibit a forged document as treaty signed by the leaders of colonized territory, volunteering the Colonial role. Even so, the process of de-colonization ignores such treaties.

## **OAU PRESCRIPTION AGAINST CAMEROON**

About what the Republic of Cameroon has done to Ambazonia this is what the Organization of African Unity says; (OAU Human Rights Charter):

Articles 19: All people shall be equal, they shall enjoy the same respect and shall have the same rights. Nothing shall justify the domination of a people by another.

Articles 20: {1} All people shall have the rights to existence. They shall have the unquestionable and inalienable rights to self-determination. They shall freely determine their political status and shall pursue their economic and social development according to the policy they have freely chosen.

{2} Colonized and oppressed people shall have the right to free themselves from the bonds of domination by resorting to any means recognized by the international community.

{3} All people shall have the right to the assistance of all states in their liberation struggle against foreign domination be it political economical or cultural.

In fact Articles 20(3) makes the violation of the rights to self-determination an offence of international dimensions for which reason the victim are entitled to ASSISTANCE BY OTHER STATES JOINTLY OR SEVERALLY in their liberation struggle.

Is there any wonder why the Republic of Cameroon has refused to sign the OAU Charter? That alone is conclusive evidence of self-confessed guilt.

[In another strange development post year 2000, Ambazonians people are worried about the "double jeopardy" in the hands of the AFRICAN UNION {successor to OAU}, whose neglect of the due process of the law for POLITICAL UNITY of all African states runs contrary to the Ambazonians people rights to self-determination.]

The OAU member states must come out loud and clear against Cameroon Colonization is colonization and oppression is oppression, regardless the color of the culprit. And it would be an act of unpardonable racism if what the OAU acknowledges as a crime ceases to be so because the culprit is a black African country --the Republic of Cameroon

## **SOME OF THE CONSEQUENCES OF THE ILLEGAL OCCUPATION OF AMBAZONIA**

### **REFUGEES**

The illegal occupation of Ambazonia has subjected the territory to tyranny, resulting to people fleeing their country.

**Figures published by the UN High Commission on Refugees (UNHCR -1990 data) show that 2,500 have fled the country. If one takes into account that I, with my family, plus my brother, now live in exile, but have not been on the UNHCR list (i.e., 8 persons) and if one considers the numbers who do not know about UNHCR, or who know but have no money to travel to Lagos and live there to process the papers for refugees status, then it may be that over 20 times this number are already living as refugees in Nigeria alone!**

I have said that I know of hundred of Ambazonians youths training abroad for a liberation war. If we do not settle this dispute now, and such war eventually breaks out, hundreds of thousands of refugees would flood into neighboring countries.

### **PREVENTION OF CATASTROPHIES**

One of the duties of the UNHCR is to prevent catastrophies, which would result in displacement of people. Does common sense not dictate that the UN takes action now to prevent a liberation war? Ambazonia is therefore expecting the UN to take the initiative in this matter.

By making Cameroon respect international law, and withdraw from Ambazonia not only would the UN prevent further refugees fleeing Ambazonia, but will enable those who are now refugees to go back home and save the UNHCR's funds for victims of unavoidable natural and unpredictable disasters.

## **SOME OF THE ATROCITIES OF THE OCCUPYING FORCES**

### **Economic Atrocities**

- 1) Ambazonia had established a very effective system of financing small-scale industries and banks. The "Cameroon Bank" was the basis of this. Yaounde has abolished that bank.
- 2) Ambazonia had established an agriculture/financing and marketing organization, which financed farmers and bought their crops for export. Yaounde has abolished this and farmers' crops, cocoa and coffee, etc now mould and rot in their houses.

- 3) Ambazonia had established a cheap source of hydro-electricity supply. Yaounde abolished this insisting that Ambazonians buy theirs, which is 300% dearer than ours. To be sure Yaounde demolished all the hydro-installations instead of letting them be as stand-by-sources.
- 4) Port Closed. Yaounde has closed all Ambazonians ports so that all imports and exports must come through Douala, their only port. Ambazonian port infrastructures have been systematically demolished.
- 5) The Ambazonian railway system has been destroyed and the rails removed. The sunning stock is left to rust away here and there.
- 6) Ambazonians road infrastructures have suffered the most. Under pretext of resurfacing the roads, the Republic of Cameroon has methodically dug up the entire Kumba/Mbonge and Kumban/Tombel roads which had been tarred: and those portions of the main circulation between Ambas Bay and the hinterland which had been tarred, (like Supe, Sabga, Eyang, Mamfe-Bauchua, etc), all these have been dug up and they are totally impassable in the rainy season.
- 7) The Ambazonian air transport systems has been abolished and no one knows what has happened to the aircrafts.

### **Social Atrocities:**

- 1) In order to ensure education for women, Ambazonia established a free primary education system for all by paying the salaries of all trained and certified teachers, even those in the service of private educational agencies. All such agencies, especially the Missions were called voluntary agencies of the government. Yaounde has abolished this. As may be expected, the first casualties are female children. They not only have been stop school, but also are forced into infant marriages or infant labor, so as to make money to contribute to the education of the male member of the family.
- 2) Ambazonia had established free antenatal, maternity and post-natal medical services for women. Children had free medical consultation. Yaounde has abolished all these services. Now pregnant women are unable to pay for the high cost of medical attention. As a result they try to do their own delivery or with the help of neighbors. The casualty rate for mothers, babies or both is better imagined than stated.

## **THE SECESSION OF LA REPUBLIQUE DU CAMEROUN**

Since the repudiation of the [\*\*Inter-Parliamentary Union Treaty\*\*](#), the union between the Republic of Cameroon and Ambazonia ceased to exist, and the new names East Cameroon and West Cameroon also died. Under international law, the repudiation of the Inter-parliamentary Union treaty resulted in the EXTINCTION OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF CAMEROON and the automatic and simultaneous RESTORATION OF THE SOVEREIGNTY OF EACH OF THE STATES THAT FORMED THE INTER-PARLIAMENTARY UNION (i.e., Ambazonia and the Republic of Cameroon)

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The Restoration Law of February 1984 did no more than formalize in terms of international law what the true position is. It restored the ORIGINAL IDENTITY and name of La Republique du Cameroun and thus emphasized the secession of Cameroon from the fiction which the name "United Republic of Cameroon" had implied since 1972. Nothing has made the Ambazonian case easier than the secession of the Republic of Cameroon. It now suffices only to compare the map of "La Republique du Cameroun" which was admitted into the UN in 1960 {annexure 1} with the map of that same La Republique du Cameroun now {annexure 2}. Annexure 2 is a conclusive self-incriminating evidence of the illegal occupation of Ambazonia by the Republic of Cameroon. So Cameroon must be forced to withdraw peacefully or otherwise.

### **THE NEW THEORY OF COMMON ETHNY BETWEEN AMBAZONIA AND THE REPUBLIC OF CAMEROON**

Cameroon has canvassed the fact that Ambazonia was once referred to with variable epithets of Cameroon, Kamerun or some name with that sound. That by this alone, Ambazonians are part of the Republic of Cameroon, and that the people are of the same ethny as the Republic of Cameroon.

**This is not true.**

The word "Cameroon" come from the Portuguese word for 'crey fish". If the word 'Cameroon, or Cameroun, or Kamerun" as the area has variedly been called identifies with an ethnic group, then the Republic of Cameroon should have found it easier to annex those part of Gabon, Congo, and Central African Republic which were part of the German kamerun, and which after the Germans left, came under the same French rule as the "la Republique du Cameroun".

But these have been neatly separated from Cameroon and we hear nothing about them because the people are just not Cameroonians. And Cameroons does not claim any common ethnicity with them at all.

Again if Cameroon under British Trusteeship was of the same ethnic group with the Republic of Cameroon, the question should have been whether it should attain separate independence or join its kinsfolk in ""a Republique du Cameroun"" But it was found that not even the Northern part of the Cameroons under British Administration belong to the same ethnic group with the Southern Cameroons under the United Kingdom Administration at all. And so the Northern Cameroons have joined their kith and kin in the Gongola State of Nigeria. The very fact that the UN plebiscite offered Ambazonians opportunity to join Nigeria if they so desired, proves that the United Nations and the international community knew that the Ambazonain peoples were in no way of the same ethnic group with Cameroon, even though the territory was called Southern Cameroons.

Furthermore, while Northern British Cameroons merged with Nigeria without any necessity of a treaty, the link between Ambazonia and the Republic of Cameroon was brought about only by a treaty. And even then, that treaty is cited at the UN as an INTER-PARLIAMENTARY UNION.

## **TREATY EMPHASIZED DIFFERENCE IN NATIONALITY**

Article 10 paragraph 9 emphasized the fact that Ambazonians are not Cameroonian nationals even though the territory was called 'Southern Cameroons under British Administration'. The Treaty states "Nationals of the Federated State of West Cameroon shall be citizen of the Federal Republic, and thus acquire Cameroonian nationality." If the people of Southern Cameroon under British trusteeship were Cameroonian nationals, then the treaty would not be offering them 'Cameroonians nationality'.

They can acquire 'Cameroonians nationality' if and only if their country became a "federated state of the Federal Republic". In other words, while the Federal Republic of Cameroon lasted, Ambazonians enjoyed dual nationality [Ambazonians by birth and Cameroonians by Treaty], but now that there is no "Federal Republic of Cameroon", the purported Cameroonian nationality for Ambazonians is lost. Ambazonians who use Cameroonian identity card, passport and other symbols of Cameroonian nationalism do so out of ignorance or most likely as flags of convenience.

The excuse of common Cameroonian nationality is therefore false and the Republic of Cameroon must be made to respect the sovereignty of Ambazonia and withdraw at once. Note, this is the same excuse Hitler offered for annexing Poland and brought upon Europe the disastrous effect of World War -II.

## **AMBAZONIA THE BEST CATALYST FOR AFRICAN UNITY**

It is now generally accepted that unless the Republic of Cameroon is made to withdraw from Ambazonia then and only then would smaller African States be assured that if they concluded treaties that bring them politically closer to their big neighbors, they do not run the risk of being annexed by the bigger neighbor with impunity. Therefore the Restoration of Ambazonian sovereignty would encourage bilateral or multilateral treaties of closer union among African states, big and small.

## **AMBAZONIA WILL UNITE ECOWAS AND UDEAC**

In addition to the passive encouragement of closer ties generally between African states, an independent Ambazonia plans to apply for admission into ECOWAS while maintaining her membership of UDEAC. Since Ambazonia oil reserves is what gives value to the UDEAC currency, the UDEAC would have to choose both to expel Ambazonia and see their currency become valueless, or agree for the two communities to become one economic community. Naturally, they would prefer the latter and so ECOWAS and UDEAC will form one economic community thanks to Ambazonia. This is the type of "unity" which developing from the mutual respect of individual and states rights and then transferred to the universal respect of property rights that will make the concept of AFRICAN UNITY a viable and sustainable one!

## **HISTORIC ANALOGIES**

The situation in which Ambazonia finds itself today is similar to that in which France found itself under the Nazi occupation, or Kuwait today finds itself under Iraqi occupation. And the situation in which the Chairman of the Ambazonian Restoration Council finds himself is similar to that in which Charles de Gaulle found himself or the Prince of Kuwait finds himself today. Charles de Gaulle, then in London alone, was recognized as the legitimate government of France in-exile. So is the Prince of Kuwait now in Saudi Arabia recognized as the legitimate

government of Kuwait. That is why THE AMBAZONIAN CROWN PRINCE AND CHAIRMAN OF THE RESTORATION COUNCIL IS THEREFORE THE LEGITIMATE GOVERNMENT OF AMBAZONIA IN-EXILE.

The Ambazonian position is even better, because, while the Nazis established a puppet government made up of French stooges under Petain, there is no such body in Ambazonia to challenge the authority of the Ambazonians government in-exile.

### **THE ILLEGAL GOVERNMENT IN YAOUNDE**

Although the legitimacy or otherwise of the government of the Republic of Cameroon is the internal Affair of Cameroon, we consider it pertinent, to spot-light the illegality of the present regime in Cameroon, in view of the fact that AMBAZONIA may be expected to enter negotiations with somebody-politic representing Cameroon.

There are several reasons why the present regime in Cameroon is illegal and illegitimate. But we will use only one. The law of La Republique du Cameroun stipulates that only members of a legally recognized political party can hold offices as Head of State, Head and Member of government, Members of Parliament, Municipal Councilors and every other political appointment. The law specifies the procedure for applying for registration and legalization of a political party. It states that within two months of its inaugural meeting the application must be filed at the prefecture of the place at which the inaugural meeting took place. A set of documents must be included in the application.

But ever since the "Cameroon People Democratic Movement" [CPDM] which rule Cameroon was founded on March 24, 1985 in Bamenda, it has filed no application whatsoever up till today. And even if one were filed now, it is time barred, and in any case, it cannot have retroactive effect so as to legitimize the present Cameroon regime. By that law the entire government, the members of Parliament, and the members of the municipalities and all other political office holders in Cameroon today are disqualified, and therefore the acts, administrative or legislative of this regime are null and void.

### **THE WESTERN SAHARA PRECEDENCE**

The OAU rejects any "Unity-by-Annexation" Moroccan or Cameroon style. And that is why it has recognized the Sahrawi Republic {Western Sahara} as a member state of the OAU even though it is under active Moroccan occupation. In the same way, OAU is to recognize Ambazonia

### **UNITY BY ANNEXATION COLLAPSES EVENTUALLY**

Events in Europe have proved that unity through law and respect of sovereignty of states even as small as Luxembourg endures, whereas unity brought about by force and annexation --Stalin style -- would eventually break up with time, as we now see in Eastern Europe.

## CAMEROON MUST NEGOTIATE OR BE FORCED OUT

Every war ends on a conference table, even if it is to signing terms of surrender by the vanquished. So why precipitate a fight if only to end by talking? We find analogy of a case in the present Iraq/Kuwait crisis. On it, the editorial of the Journal, THE USA TODAY, on August 30, 1990 says:

"Now it the time for diplomacy. Now it the time to talk. There is no danger in talking. There is nothing to loose. Only billions and billions of dollars to be saved that a prolong confrontation would cost. And the lives of young men and women that surely would be lost if fighting break out. The UN should lead the way and end the war before it begins." Although the Right Honorable Margaret Hilda Thatcher, the British prime Minister is quoted in the same papers as saying. "there is no negotiation with a person who by force has taken another person's country," Ambazonia is willing to talk with Cameroon under the auspices of the UN.

The questions is not whether Ambazonia is willing to forgive, but the questions is whether Yaounde Regime, intoxicated with the arrogance of greed and power to be exhibiting this self-brewed infallibility is willing to repent? We however believe in miracles, and that God would give us the appropriate spirit to resolve this matter peacefully before it becomes too late.

For the alternative to a speedy and amicable solution is too ghastly to contemplate, as has been so profusely demonstrated all across this sad African continent. Let all the good people of AFRICAN and the WORLD give "peace" a fair fighting chance by recognizing the legitimate rights to independence of Ambazonia! Remember, this right is an inalienable right which was illegally taken away!

Thanks in anticipation of your cooperation.

His Royal Highness, Fongum GORJI-DINKA, QC; CC:ACP

Head of State Republic of Ambazonia

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Advise by Paulo Muwanga during June 1991 AOU Summit in Abuja Nigeria