

An Open Letter to Cameroun the *L'Etat-Major* of Cameroun:

Through
THE ANGLOPHONE SOLDIER

SUBJECT: DEFUSE THE TIME BOMB

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Author of the New Social Order.

Dear Compatriots,

Addressing the Nation after the Army had recovered from the Republican Guards putchists and handed it back to him, H.S. Paul Biya spoke for all of us when he paid very warm homage to the Cameroonian Soldier for his meticulous attachment to LEGALITY.

H.E. Paul Biya by his vacillations, procrastinations and unpardonably bad judgment, had plunged us in a bloody incident, which not only disqualified him from further leading us, but had effectively put him out of power.

It is therefore only thanks to our armed forces attachment to legality that they called on H.E. Paul Biya to once more take the leadership of our country. And no one in this country can appreciate this attachment to legality more than I, the first President of the Cameroon Bar, and the Doyen of Cameroon lawyers.

It is in this capacity, inter alia, that I am leading this appeal to you, the effective custodian of our common good. We direct you to take a serious view of the fact that our brother H.E. Paul Biya is dragging us through a series of illegalities,

unconstitutionality and humiliating provocations, which are sure to bring us to a violent explosion, which will totally disintegrate this country.

Enclosed is a document, THE NEW SOCIAL ORDER. It is self-explanatory. It highlights the danger before us. It proposes a very effective way of neutralizing the danger, to the satisfaction and happiness of the people of this country. But as you must have by now established, H.E. Paul Biya either does not understand the priorities of this country, or allows those whom he call "international opinion" to impose their own priorities on Cameroon.

For example, after Ahidjo had openly declared himself in conflict with H.E. Paul Biya, National interests dictated that a dangerous rich enemy like Ahidjo be taken into custody and totally neutralized by all means at our disposal. Was H.E. Paul Biya guided by National Interest when he preferred to organize the exit of Ahidjo from Cameroon? Of course, H.E. Paul Biya knew that he was giving Ahidjo the opportunity of having access to his ill-gotten financial resources and friends abroad and with these resources he would organize efforts to topple or destabilize our government. Today the whole country and especially our armed forces live in perpetual alert in order to prevent Ahidjo's agents from assassinating H.E. Paul Biya, just to settle personal scores.

Make no mistake; neither change of party names, nor a thousand elections under this Ahidjo's system can ever change the fact that the Biya of today is a creation of Ahidjo. And as long as Ahidjo lives and as long as Biya is ruling Cameroon, Ahidjo demands unquestionable gratitude from H.E. Paul Biya. And he will get it, like it or not, on his own terms.

If Ahidjo were in detention or house arrest, by the Cameroon authorities, we would not have been in the state of insecurity in which we are now. But that is the work of H.E. Paul Biya.

Again look at the problem, which was posed by the Republican Guards. What national interest was it that made H.E. Paul Biya to maintain at the Presidential Security Service, all the Ahidjo men who formed 90% of the Republican Guards? Was it not better in the national interest that at least 60% of these people be transferred to other services rather than leaving them at the Presidency? H.E. Paul Biya said in his press conference that he was afraid of what "international opinion would say if he

transferred Ahidjo's people away from services as the Republican Guards.

And so the obvious danger of letting the Republican Guards organize a coup d'état against our government was of no importance in H.E. Biya's judgment of priorities. What mattered to him was his relationship with his foreign friends whom he calls "international opinion." And we have had to pay with blood and misery for this bad judgment. The coup has killed many, imprisoned more and left many families miserable and crying for solace or vengeance. The Northerner is now totally estranged from the nation. And who is responsible for this? H.E. Paul Biya and his sense of priorities.

But it seems that H.E. Paul Biya is under the spell of an evil force, which seems to make him prefer doing only those things, which are bound to provoke more and more problems for us.

What else is it that motivated H.E. Paul Biya into reviving the old République du Cameroun? He, as a lawyer, knows that by reviving the old République du Cameroun he proclaimed the secession of that Francophone East Cameroon from its union with Anglophone West Cameroon. He also knows that by so doing he disqualifies every Francophone from legally ruling Anglophone Cameroon unless and until an accord is signed between the two (the République du Cameroun and Southern Cameroons alias "Ambazonia"). The existence of a South Cameroun Province (Ebolowa) makes it necessary for us to use the geographical expression Ambazonia to identify Anglophone Cameroon.

H. E. Paul Biya knows that in the absence of such a signed accord between République du Cameroun and Ambazonia, he can only rule Ambazonia as an annexed territory and as a colony of the République du Cameroun. He knows that Ambazonians are not happy with the way Francophones treat them, even though there are palace-living renegades who will lie to the contrary. H.E. Paul Biya knows that the notion of colonialism is so humiliating and revolting to any human that sooner or later Ambazonians will rise in revolt against the colonial status which H.E. Paul Biya has now given them. Just why does H.E. Paul Biya want to open up a second front of conflict, this time with Anglophones, when he still has the North to contend with? No one can explain. This is the evil force working to destroy Biya himself, if not Cameroon with him.

We proposed a New Social Order and, every sensible man including foreign diplomats admit that it is the best solution to the

state of affairs in which we are. But H.E. Paul Biya has not as much as acknowledged receipt of that document. On the contrary, he has been more preoccupied with still more and more illegalities.

H.E. Paul Biya knows that whoever renounces membership of a political party automatically forfeits any posts he holds by virtue of his membership of that party. This is what happened to comrade Moussa Yaya, when he lost his membership of the Cameroon national Union (CNU). H.E. Paul Biya knows or ought to have known that by renouncing membership of the CNU he and all Cameroonians who held offices by virtue of their membership of the CNU automatically lose their offices; so all posts except the Civil Services are now vacant with effect from 24-3-85, the date of the birth of the RDPC.

Again CNU constitution forbids the discussion of any matter at the congress, which is not listed on the agenda of the congress. And it is the Central Committee meeting which fixes that agenda for the Congress. The change of CNU into a new name was not listed in the agenda. Therefore, the change is null and void.

If you call it a new party, then RDPC is still an illegal association since it has not complied with the law on the formation of associations. The CNU has not been dissolved and so its assets remain its assets. But illegal association called RDPC has already started claiming the people and property of the CNU.

Now, in the face of all this mess, chaos and illegalities mounting daily, we find it imperative to call on the Cameroonian Etat Major to take action similar to that which the French Generals took in 1959 to put an end to the chaos of the Fourth Republic in France. The French Generals, rather than do the stupid thing of seizing power and becoming involved in the controversy of governing, preferred to withdraw support from the government of the Fourth Republic and enlisted the services of a French Patriot Charles de Gaulle to start the reconstruction of a new France. (Note: Charles de Gaulle was now a civilian living at Colombey-Lesdeux-Ebglises).

This is the task before you, the Cameroon soldier today. The same attachment to legality motivated you to put up a counter offensive against the coup of April 1984; the same notions of legality that made you hand power back to Biya, that is the same notion of ;legality which now urges you today to peacefully bring this chaos and illegality to an end.

We make this appeal especially through the Anglophone Soldier because for him the question is not whether to bring this chaos to an end, but when to do so. We prefer it now at this time when a peaceful solution can reinforce the bridges of amity across the Mungo, rather than wait till a violent decolonization war is unleashed by Ambazonians, which would naturally end with a wide chasm of enmity across the Mungo. That is the chasm of enmity to which H.E. Pual Biya is leading us.

The notions of annexation and colonialism as such a revolting humiliation that sooner or later the Ambazonians would prefer to seek dignity in death rather than live in palaces as service renegades for George Bernard Shaw put it rightly when he said:

*"Human nature is the same everywhere;
Put a man in the most palacial mansion ever,
He will never be as contented as the man in his novel
Who is able to say, this is my own."*

Colonialism being such an anathema and decolonization being the natural antithesis to it, would it not be better to see that you enlist the cooperation of your Etat-Major, for a peaceful reconstruction of a new social order, instead of waiting until you are confronted with the difficult choice of having either to shoot at your Anglophone kith and kin resisting colonialism, or to shoot at your senior officer for ordering you to shoot down your own kith and kin?

That is why we are specially making this appeal through you the Anglophone Soldier to the Etat-Major of Cameroon. We ask you to be once more guided by the legality, which motivated you I April 1984. At that time you used bullets, force and blood. But this time you need no such thing. All you need is courage, firmness, honesty and a tongue to persuade or pressurize, like the French Military did in 1958. Is this too much for you the Cameroon soldier? We are willing and able to place at the disposal of the Etat-Major all the legal and constitutional expertise necessary for a peaceful and satisfactory national reconstruction.

Or admiration for the role of the French military in 1958 compels us to end this memo with a citation of the French National Hymn, which we find most befitting here:

Ye sons of (Cameroon) awake to glory
Hark! Hark! What myriads bid you rise

Your children, wives and grand sires hoary;

Behold their tears and hear their cry
Behold their tears and hear their cry
Shall hateful tyrants of mischief breeding;

A hireling host a ruffian band
A fright AND DESOLATE THE FATHERLAND
While peace and liberty lie bleeding;

To.....To.....ye brave
The avenging.....
March on! March on! All hearts resolved
On victory or death.

May the Almighty God, whose spirit of Truth compels us to speak out at these times of national crises, guide your action. "For we wrestle not against flesh and blood but against principalities, against powers, against rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places." (Eph. 6:12)

Thank You.
Yours Truly,
Fon Fongum Gorji-Dinka.