PREM 19/2033

MT

PART ONE

Confidential Filing

U.K./Cameroon Relations

CAMEROON

PTI: APRIL 1980

Referred to	Date	Referred to	Date	Referred to	Date	Referred to	Date
~~15.4.80~~		~~15.4.85~~					
~~22.4.80~~		~~11.1.85~~					
~~17.9.80~~		~~15.5.85~~					
~~6.3.81~~		~~17.6.85~~					
~~23.3.80~~		~~16.7.85~~					
~~21.4.82~~		~~2/9/85~~					
~~24.11.82~~		~~10.9.85~~					
~~13.12.82~~		~~22.11.85~~					
~~14.3.83~~		~~26.11.85~~					
~~18.4.83~~		~~3.12.85~~					
~~28.10.83~~		~~10.1.86~~					
~~31.10.83~~		~~28.7.89~~					
~~16.11.83~~		5.2.88					
~~16.11.83~~							
~~14.12.83~~		PT ENDS					
~~24.1.84~~							
~~12.4.84~~							
~~26.1.85~~							
4.2.85							
~~8.2.85~~							
13.2.85							
~~26.3.85~~							
~~29.3.85~~							
~~2.4.85~~							

PREM 19/2033

PART 1 ends:-

PRES BIYA to PM. 25.3.88

PART 2 begins:-

CDP to FCO. 11.4.88

TO BE RETAINED AS TOP ENCLOSURE

Cabinet / Cabinet Committee Documents

Reference	Date
CC(84) 15th meeting, item 2	12/04/1984

The documents listed above, which were enclosed on this file, have been removed and destroyed. Such documents are the responsibility of the Cabinet Office. When released they are available in the appropriate **CAB** (CABINET OFFICE) CLASSES

Signed _____ Date 16/01/2015

PREM Records Team

SUBJECT
CC MASTER
OPS

PRIME MINISTER'S
PERSONAL MESSAGE
SERIAL No. T40M/88

République du Cameroun

Le Président
de la République

A 329/CAB/PRC

Yaoundé, le 25 MARS 1988

DEAR PRIME MINISTER,

I HAVE BEEN FOLLOWING WITH CLOSE ATTENTION THE PROGRESS OF YOUR RECENT ACTIVITIES ON THE INTERNATINAL STAGE, FROM YOUR KEY MEETING IN LONDON WITH GENERAL SECRETARY GORBACHEV BEFORE THE SIGNING OF THE INF TREATY IN WASHINGTON, AND FROM YOUR IMPORTANT VISITS TO KENYA AND TO MY NEIGHBOUR, NIGERIA, AND NOW TO YOUR CURRENT EFFORTS TO HELP SHAPE EUROPE INTO A FINANCIALLY SOUND COMMUNITY OF POWERFUL NATIONS.

YOUR VISIT TO KENYA AND NIGERIA WAS WELL TIMED AND ITS EXECUTION WELL JUDGED, IF I MAY SAY SO. (I WOULD VERY MUCH HAVE LIKED TO WELCOME YOU TO CAMEROON, HAD YOU BEEN ABLE TO MAKE IT BUT I WAS TOLD YOU HAD JUST A FEW DAYS AVAILABLE FOR THIS FIRST, AFRICAN TOUR OF YOURS. I HOPE IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE NEXT TIME). THIS IS A CONTINENT WHICH, WELL INTO THE NEXT CENTURY I AM AFRAID, WILL CONTINUE TO POSE PROBLEMS OF MANY KINDS NOT ONLY FOR ITS CONSTITUENT PARTS BUT FOR THE LEADING NATIONS OF THE WESTERN WORLD. BRITAIN'S ROLE WILL REMAIN CRUCIAL, AND I AM ENCOURAGED TO THINK THAT UNDER YOUR LEADERSHIP IT WILL REMAIN CONSTRUCTIVE.

THE RT. HON. MARGARET THATCHER, FRS, MP
PRIME MINISTER OF THE UNITED KINGDOM

.../...

- LONDON -

LIKE YOU, I HAVE BEEN STRUCK PARTICULARLY, AS HAVE OTHER LEADERS THROUGHOUT THE CENTURIES NO DOUBT, BY THE CLOSE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN ECONOMIC STRENGTH AND POLITICAL INFLUENCE. YOUR OWN EFFORTS TO RESHAPE THE BRITISH ECONOMY HAVE, BY NO MERE COINCIDENCE, BEEN ACCOMPANIED BY A STRENGTHENING OF BRITISH DIPLOMACY ABROAD. I SEE A SOUND FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY AS LIKELY TO HERALD A SIMILAR INCREASE IN THE INFLUENCE ABROAD OF THE COMMUNITY AS A WHOLE AND OF ITS MEMBERS.

THE SAME PROBLEM FACES CAMEROON. WE HAVE A ROLE TO PLAY IN AFRICA AND PERHAPS, AS A BRIDGE BETWEEN THE ANGLOPHONE AND FRANCOPHONE COUNTRIES, IT IS A SPECIAL ROLE. CERTAINLY I BELEIVE IT IS ONE WHICH CAN CONTRIBUTE TO THE PEACEFUL SOLUTIONS WE AFRICANS NEED. WE HAVE MANY OBSTACLES TO OVERCOME AND THE GREATEST OF THEM, UNDER-DEVELOPMENT, IS NOT LIMITED TO THE ECONOMIC DOMAIN. BUT WITHOUT SOUND ECONOMIC POLICIES, NONE OF US ON THIS CONTINENT CAN BRING ABOUT THE POLITICAL DEVELOPMENT WE ALSO NEED. WITH A STRONGER ECONOMY, AND THE GREATER INFLUENCE WHICH GOES WITH IT, CAMEROON WILL BE BETTER PLACED TO OFFER A CONSTRUCTIVE, MODERATE AND HELPFUL CONTRIBUTION TO THE SOLUTION OF THE PROBLEMS AFRICA POSES FOR ITSELF AND FOR THE OUTSIDE WORLD.

THE ECONOMIC DIFFICULTIES MY COUNTRY IS CURRENTLY FACING ARE PRIMARILY FOR US TO SOLVE. THE FALL IN OIL AND COMMODITY PRICES, AND THE DEPRECIATION IN THE VALUE OF THE DOLLAR, HAVE HIT US HARD. WE SHALL HAVE TO LOOK FOR NEW SOURCES OF EXPORT INCOME, AND IN THE PUBLIC SECTOR WE SHALL NEED TO CUT OUR COAT ACCORDING TO OUR CLOTH. THIS RESTRUCTURING WILL REQUIRE CAREFUL POLITICAL MANAGEMENT WITHIN CAMEROON, AND IT WILL IN ANY CASE TAKE TIME TO BRING ABOUT. I HAVE ALREADY SET IN HAND SOME OF THE MEASURES NEEDED, AND MORE WILL HAVE TO COME. THE IMF HAVE A TEAM HERE IN CAMEROON AT THE MOMENT, AND THERE WILL BE CONTINUED DISCUSSIONS WITH THEM AND WITH THEIR IBRD COLLEAGUES TO ENABLE ENOUGH INTERIM ASSISTANCE TO BE GIVEN. THESE ARE, I AM SURE, THE RIGHT INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTIONS FOR SUCHTASKS.

.../...

BUT, PRIME MINISTER, I BELIEVE THERE IS A ROLE ALSO FOR BRITAIN TO PLAY. WE SHALL NEED A HELPFUL AND FRIENDLY VOICE IN THE COUNCILS OF THE IMF AND THE WORLD BANK, AND I HOPE YOUR DELEGATION THERE CAN BE BRIEFED TO EXERCISE IT.

WE SHALL CONTINUE TO NEED ALSO THE HELP AND UNDERSTANDING OF YOUR GOUVERNMENT AND YOUR BUSINESSMEN IN THESE DIFFICULT TIMES. I FULLY APPRECIATE ALL THAT HAS ALREADY BEEN DONE. AND I CAN HARDLY BE SURPRISED IF FOREIGN BUSINESSMEN, SUFFERING PAYMENT PROBLEMS, SHOULD FEEL DISMAYED AND DISCOURAGED. BUT I WOULD STILL URGE THEIR GOVERNMENTS TO TAKE A LONGER VIEW AND TO ENCOURAGE THEIR ENTREPRENEURS AND INVESTORS TO KEEP THEIR NERVES.CAMEROON MAY BE GOING THROUGH HARD TIMES. BUT IF BRITISH AID AND ENTERPRISES CAN STILL HELP US TO DEVELOP OUR EXPORTS AND SO STRENGTHEN OUR ECONOMY, THERE WILL BE PROFITS TO SHARE AND POLITICAL DIVIDENDS FOR ALL TO REAP.

PLEASE ACCEPT, DEAR PRIME MINISTER, THE ASSURANCES OF MY HIGHEST CONSIDERATION.

REPUBLIQUE UNIE DU CAMEROUN
UNITED REPUBLIC OF CAMEROON
LE PRESIDENT
President of the Republic
PRESIDENCE DE LA REPUBLIQUE

PAUL BIYA

SUBJECT cc MASTER OPS

AMBASSADE DE LA REPUBLIQUE
DU CAMEROUN
Paix – Travail – Patrie

EMBASSY OF THE REPUBLIC
OF CAMEROON
Peace – Work – Fatherland

84 Holland Park,
LONDON, W11 3SB
01-727 0771

PRIME MINISTER'S
PERSONAL MESSAGE
SERIAL No. 116/88

No 92 /ECL/ PC/88

The Embassy of the Republic of Cameroon presents its compliments to the Protocol Department of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and would be grateful if the following message could be kindly transmitted to the Right Honourable Margaret THATCHER, Prime Minister of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and NorthernIreland :

"MESSAGE No. B 1645/CAB/PR OF 04/02/88

PRESICAM (PRIVATE CABINET) YAOUNDE

TO

THE RIGHT HONOURABLE MARGARET THATCHER,
PRIME MINISTER OF THE UNITED KINGDOM
OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND

DEAR PRIME MINISTER,

I RECEIVED THE KIND MESSAGE YOU SENT TO ME AS YOU FLEW OVER CAMEROON. I WAS DEEPLY TOUCHED BY THIS GESTURE AND WOULD LIKE YOU TO ACCEPT MY SINCERE THANKS.

SINCERELY,

PAUL BIYA,
PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF CAMEROON."

The Embassy of the Republic of Cameroon avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Protocol Department of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office the assurances of its highest consideration./-

London, 5th February 1988.

Protocol Department,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office,
London S.W.1

File Prem
cc FCO

10 DOWNING STREET

LONDON SW1A 2AA

THE PRIME MINISTER

28 July 1987

PRIME MINISTER'S
PERSONAL MESSAGE
SERIAL No. T150A/87

Dear the President,

I am grateful to you for your letter of 11 July which was conveyed by your Minister for Public Contracts, Monsieur Kamga Njike.

It was helpful to have the account which Monsieur Njike has given us of your Government's economic programme. Please accept my best wishes for the success of the economic measures which your Government has adopted. From our own efforts here I recognise how difficult these will be to put into effect. But I also know from our own experience how worthwhile it is in the longer term to place one's country on a sound economic footing. You may therefore be assured that we shall follow developments in Cameroon closely and fully support your commitment to economic recovery.

With warm good wishes,

Yours sincerely

Margaret Thatcher

His Excellency Monsieur Paul Biya, GCMG

Prem

010

cc PQ

Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

27 July 1987

Dear Charles,

Message to the Prime Minister from President Biya of Cameroon

When the Cameroon Minister for Public Contracts, M Njike, called on Mrs Chalker on 14 July in the course of an official visit to the UK he gave her a message in writing addressed to Mrs Thatcher from the Cameroon President. I
/ enclose the signed originals in English and French.

In amplifying the message orally, M Njike explained Cameroon's repayment problems as stemming mainly from lower oil prices, and described recent economic counter-measures. He asked the United Kingdom to continue to stand by Cameroon's efforts.

In practical terms the Cameroonians wish us to avoid adopting a restrictive attitude to credit cover. Our present policy is generally in line with these wishes, though future cover will clearly be influenced by Cameroon's record on payment to UK suppliers, which is being monitored carefully. British firms have found a number of useful openings in Cameroon, which is a market of long term potential.

We believe that in the circumstances, there would be merit in a brief acknowledgement from the Prime Minister to President Biya, expressing good wishes but avoiding any specific
/ commitments. A draft is enclosed.

Yours ever,

Lyn Parker

(L Parker)
Private Secretary

C D Powell Esq
PS/10 Downing Street

DSR 11 (Revised)

DRAFT: minute/letter/teleletter/despatch/note

TYPE: Draft/Final 1+

FROM:
Prime Minister

Reference

DEPARTMENT: TEL. NO:

SECURITY CLASSIFICATION

Top Secret
Secret
Confidential
Restricted
Unclassified

PRIVACY MARKING

.....In Confidence

CAVEAT.....

Enclosures—flag(s).....

TO:
His Excellency Monsieur Paul Biya
GCMG
President of the Republic of
Cameroon

Your Reference

Copies to:
PMAEC

SUBJECT:

I am grateful to you for your letter of 11 July which was conveyed by your Minister for Public Contracts, Monsieur Kamga Njike.

It was helpful to have the account which Monsieur Njike has given us of your Government's economic programme. ~~and~~ I am confident that his visit to the United Kingdom will help to develop further the close and friendly relations between our two countries.

Please accept my best wishes for the success of the economic measures which your Government has adopted. From our own efforts here I recognise how difficult these will be to put into effect. but I also know from our own experience how worthwhile it is in the longer term to place one's country on a sound economic footing. You may therefore be assured that we shall follow developments in Cameroon closely and fully support your commitment to economic recovery.

With warm good wishes

CR

FRAAAR

PEACE - WORK - FATHERLAND

PRIME MINISTER'S
PERSONAL MESSAGE
SERIAL No. T138AA/87

SUBJECT
CC MASTER
OPS

Republic of Cameroon

The President
of the Republic

Yaounde, 11 JUIL. 1987

Dear Prime Minister,

Within the context of the bonds of friendship and co-operation that have existed between our two countries for so long, I have the honour to despatch to you Mr. Kamga Njike, Minister Delegate at the Presidency in charge of Computer Services and Public Contracts.

My emissary will inform you of the very harmful effects of the world economic crisis on Cameroon and of the measures I have taken in the face of such a situation. He will also inform you of the possible contribution that your Government could make in the circumstances.

I, therefore, beg you to receive him with your usual kindness and to give faith and credence to all that he shall communicate to you on my behalf, more especially when he shall express to you my feelings of very high esteem and friendship.

Once more, Prime Minister, accept the assurances of my very high esteem.

PAUL BIYA

THE RIGHT HON. MARGARET THATCHER, MP.,
PRIME MINISTER OF THE UNITED KINGDOM OF
GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND,
10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON

PAIX-TRAVAIL-PATRIE

République du Cameroun

Le Président
de la République

Yaoundé, le 11 JUIL. 1987

MADAME LE PREMIER MINISTRE,

DANS LE CADRE DES LIENS D'AMITIE ET DE COOPERATION QUI EXISTENT DEPUIS LONGTEMPS ENTRE NOS DEUX PAYS, J'AI L'HONNEUR DE DEPECHER AUPRES DE VOUS MONSIEUR KAMGA NJIKE, MINISTRE DELEGUE A LA PRESIDENCE CHARGE DE L'INFORMATIQUE ET DES MARCHES PUBLICS.

MON EMISSAIRE A POUR MISSION D'EXPOSER A VOTRE EXCELLENCE, LES EFFETS PARTICULIEREMENT NEFASTES DE LA CRISE ECONOMIQUE MONDIALE SUR LE CAMEROUN, LES MESURES QUE J'AI PRISES POUR Y FAIRE FACE AINSI QUE LA CONTRIBUTION EVENTUELLE QUE VOTRE GOUVERNEMENT POURRAIT NOUS APPORTER.

JE VOUS SERAIS PAR CONSEQUENT OBLIGE DE LE RECEVOIR AVEC VOTRE BIENVEILLANCE ACCOUTUMEE ET D'AJOUTER FOI ET CREANCE A TOUT CE QU'IL VOUS DIRA DE MA PART, SURTOUT LORSQU'IL VOUS RENOUVELLERA L'ASSURANCE DE MA TRES HAUTE CONSIDERATION ET DE MA PROFONDE ESTIME.

VEUILLEZ AGREER, MADAME LE PREMIER MINISTRE, L'EXPRESSION DE MA TRES HAUTE CONSIDERATION./-

PAUL BIYA

LE PRESIDENT
PRESIDENCY OF THE REPUBLIC
PRESIDENCE DE LA REPUBLIQUE

SON EXCELLENCE MADAME MARGARET THATCHER
PREMIER MINISTRE
10 DOWNING STREET
LONDRES

File

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

16 January 1986

The Prime Minister was most interested to read Mrs Chalker's letter of 15 January about her visit to Cameroon. She is very ready to send a message to President Biya, and has now signed one which Crispin Tickell can take with him.

The Prime Minister was grateful for President Biya's invitation though has no plans at present to go to Africa.

C D POWELL

Anthony Cary, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office

BM

DIA

file

cc ODA

10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

16 January 1986

SUBJECT cc OPS MASTER

PRIME MINISTER'S PERSONAL MESSAGE SERIAL No. T10/86

Dear Mr. President,

I warmly recall our meetings last May during your visit to Britain. I was glad to learn that Mrs. Chalker's recent visit went so well and that she was able to have such promising discussions with you and your Government on projects of joint interest.

I am sure that we share a concern that further progress should be made in our relations, particularly in spending the £40m Aid and Credit package. I am glad that progress has been made recently on some projects, in particular the North-West Electrification Project. I am sure that you are as anxious as I am that greater progress should be made and that work should start quickly on projects which will assist development in Cameroon.

You will remember that I asked Sir Crispin Tickell, the Permanent Secretary for Overseas Development, to call on you after our lunch together and that agreement was reached then on the projects to be considered for the £40m package. I am glad that you have also invited Sir Crispin to visit Cameroon and I hope that you and your Government will feel free to express frankly to him any particular difficulties so that he can help remove any causes for delay.

I wish you every success in your plans for your country's future progress and trust that Cameroon will

continue with its remarkable record of success, which is a very considerable achievement during the recent difficult years for the world economy.

His Excellency Monsieur Paul Biya, G.C.M.G.

Foreign and Commonwealth Office
London SW1A 2AH

From The Minister of State

15 January 1986

Dear Margaret,

Thank you for this magnificent opportunity. This personal note should have come to you before Christmas, following my visit to Gabon & Cameroon to promote British transport exports, but circumstances did not permit.

You may know from Geoffrey that whilst I was in Cameroon, I spent some four hours with President Biya. The first hour and a half were in audience with James Glaze our Ambassador present, and some hour and three quarters was over a luncheon that the President gave for me, to which he also invited two of the British business men travelling with me. For the rest of the time we spoke together, frequently without others at all, and it was a very frank and political conversation.

It was in this conversation that he asked

Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

From The Minister of State

me to pass on to you personally. He could not be a better "supporter" for our Government, and he went so far as to say "if I had a vote in Britain, I would be a convinced Conservative."

In discussing his 'new deal for Cameroon', he elaborated on the importance of small business development, thorough training and the need to encourage the entrepreneur in every way. He obviously felt very close to our policies.

He very much wants you to pay a visit to Cameroon. I explained that with our Parliamentary system it was very difficult for you to get away, but he was so insistent that I promised to pass you the invitation personally. You would enjoy it.

As Geoffrey knows, President Biya's new deal for Cameroon means much more effort to make the nation bilingual, and particularly to detach themselves from the over close dependence on France. He is keen to promote projects in which British companies will participate, (not only through ATP), to have British teachers in his schools (20 V.S.O. teachers of Maths and Physics will go in September now), and to have the most open friendship with us without offending the French.

I believe that there are great opportunities

Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

From The Minister of State

for the U.K. in Cameroon, and I shall do all I can to promote them.

Meantime I wonder if I might ask you a special favour. Sir Crispin Tickell from ODA leaves for Cameroon this Friday, and I wondered if you would be able to find a moment to write President Biya a short letter of friendship that he might treasure. If Sir Crispin could carry this with him, it would be very helpful. We have major contract opportunities ahead in our Aid and Credit package, which Paul Channon and I will do all we can to secure.

Once again, my grateful thanks for bringing me to the F.C.O. I loved Transport, but I was ready for this new challenge.

Yours ever

Lynda

Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

15 January 1986

Dear Charles,

Relations with Cameroon

Mrs Chalker's recent successful visit to Cameroon did a great deal to further the major contract opportunities opened up by our aid and credit package to that country. She secured a promise of one contract for a British company within the package. The Cameroonians also welcomed the offer of rail buses under Air and Trade provision to be supplied by British Rail Engineering.

It is worth making a real effort to build on this opening. Cameroon, which has a stable government and is, by West African standards, well managed, offers Britain one of the best prospects for increased trade in Francophone Africa. Its economy has been growing at about 6% a year in real terms, and it also has a hard currency.

At the Prime Minister's meeting with President Biya last May, a list of projects was agreed for inclusion in the aid and credit package, and the President invited Sir Crispin Tickell to visit Cameroon to pursue the opportunities for Britain. Accordingly, Sir Crispin will be visiting Cameroon from 19-23 January. Mrs Chalker, who is writing to the Prime Minister personally under separate cover, believes that it would be extremely helpful if the Prime Minister would write to the President of Cameroon - by hand of Sir Crispin - expressing our determination to maintain the recent improvement in our relations.

/ I attach a suggested draft.

Yours ever,

Colin Budd

(C R Budd)
Private Secretary

C D Powell Esq
PS/10 Downing Street

DSR 11 (Revised)

DRAFT: minute/letter/teleletter/despatch/note

TYPE: Draft/Final 1+

FROM: The Prime Minister

Reference

A4Q

DEPARTMENT:

TEL. NO:

SECURITY CLASSIFICATION

Top Secret
Secret
Confidential
Restricted
Unclassified

TO: HE The President
Yaoundé
Cameroon

Your Reference

Copies to:

PRIVACY MARKING

.....In Confidence

CAVEAT.....

SUBJECT:

I warmly recall our meetings last May during your visit to Britain. I was glad to learn that Mrs Chalker's recent visit went so well and that she was able to have such ~~encouraging~~ promising discussions with you and your Government on projects of joint interest.

I am sure that we share a concern that further progress should be made in our relations~~hips~~, particularly in spending the £40m Aid and Credit package. I am glad that ~~some~~ progress has been made recently on some projects, in particular the North-West Electrification Project.
I am sure that you are as anxious as I am that greater progress should be made and that work should start quickly on projects which will assist development in Cameroon.

You will remember that I asked Sir Crispin Tickell, the Permanent Secretary for Overseas Development, to call on you after our lunch together and that agreement was reached then on the projects to be considered for the £40m package. I am glad that you have also invited Sir Crispin to visit Cameroon and I hope that you and your Government will feel free to express frankly to him any particular difficulties so that he can help remove any causes for delay.

/I wish

Enclosures—flag(s).....

I wish you every success in your plans for your country's future progress and trust that Cameroon will continue with its remarkable record of success, which is a very considerable achievement during the recent difficult years for the world economy.

em

E.R.

Caroline — Rang & told him - CR. She std. report in writing - other ministers do. CDR

MR. POWELL

MRS. LYNDA CHALKER: MINISTER OF STATE, TRANSPORT

Lynda Chalker has just returned from the Cameroons and the Gabon carrying messages ... would like to see the Prime Minister ... advice please ...

CR

(Caroline Ryder)

3 December 1985

Foreign and Commonwealth Office
London SW1A 2AH

Telephone 01-

M J C Glaze Esq
HM Ambassador
Yaounde

Your reference

Our reference

Date 26 November 1985

Dear James,

INVITATIONS FROM PRESIDENT BIYA TO HM THE QUEEN AND THE PRIME MINISTER

1. I enclose a letter from the Prime Minister replying to President Biya's invitation to visit Cameroon. I also enclose a copy of a self-explanatory minute from Protocol Department about the response from The Queen to President Biya's invitation.

2. We should be grateful if you would arrange to forward the replies to the President.

Yours ever

Joe

J D Clark
West African Department

PRIME MINISTER'S
PERSONAL MESSAGE
SERIAL No. T221B/85

Subject
copy
master.
cc FCO.

DSG

10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

25 November 1985

Dear Mr. President,

Thank you very much for your recent letter and your kind invitation to visit Cameroon. While the pressure of Government business and existing commitments unfortunately make it impossible for me to take up the invitation at the present time, I should very much like to look again at the possibility at some later stage.

I too recall with great pleasure your visit to Britain earlier this year which was, as you point out, a clear demonstration of our common interest in strengthening the already good relations existing between our two countries.

As further demonstrations of these bonds of friendship, I am pleased to note that two of my Ministerial colleagues have plans to visit Cameroon shortly, Mrs. Chalker at the end of this month and Mr. Lamont in early 1986.

With best wishes,

Yours sincerely

Margaret Thatcher

His Excellency Monsieur Paul Biya, G.C.M.G.

Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

22 November 1985

Dear Charles,

Invitation from President Biya for the Prime Minister to visit Cameroon

President Biya of Cameroon has sent a letter of invitation to the Prime Minister to visit Cameroon. I attach the invitation, together with an English translation and a draft reply from the Prime Minister to the President. President Biya has also sent a similar invitation to Her Majesty The Queen which has been referred to Buckingham Palace through the usual channels.

The contents of President Biya's letter of invitation to the Prime Minister indicate that the President is renewing an invitation made during his official visit to Britain (14-17 May), and although no mention is made of this in the record of the meeting between the President and the Prime Minister on 15 May, our Ambassador, who was present during the Prime Minister's lunch for President Biya, recalls that the President did make an oral invitation. The Ambassador is not aware of the Prime Minister's response.

During his visit to the UK, President Biya stressed his Government's firm intention of strengthening his country's relations with Britain, particularly in the economic and commercial fields. This manifested itself following the President's return to Cameroon in a hitherto unprecedented increase in activity by the various Cameroonian Ministries dealing with the £40m Aid & Trade package (ATP) which had been on offer and unused since December 1983. Prospects for British companies now look considerably better and the momentum will be further stimulated by Mrs Chalker's visit to Cameroon later this month. The A & T package has been extended for a further year until December 1986. A visit to Cameroon by the Director Military Assistance Overseas at the invitation of President Biya will also go ahead in December to assess the country's requirements for defence equipment. Mr Lamont, Minister of State for Defence Procurement, also hopes to visit Cameroon to sign an MOU on defence equipment early in 1986.

The President's invitation to the Prime Minister is therefore a further welcome indication that the good will generated by his visit to Britain has not abated, at least so far as the President is concerned. The Foreign Secretary hopes that the Prime Minister will reply to President Biya along the lines of the attached draft.

Yours ever,

Colin Budd

(C R Budd)
Private Secretary

C D Powell Esq
10 Downing Street

DSR 11 (Revised)

DRAFT: minute/letter/teleletter/despatch/note

TYPE: Draft/Final 1+

FROM:
The Prime Minister

Reference

DEPARTMENT: **TEL. NO:**

SECURITY CLASSIFICATION

Top Secret
Secret
Confidential
Restricted
Unclassified

TO:

His Excellency
President Paul Biya

Your Reference

Copies to:

RAMADT (889)

PRIVACY MARKING

.....In Confidence

CAVEAT.....

SUBJECT:

Thank you very much for your recent letter and your kind invitation to visit Cameroon. While the pressure of Government business and existing commitments unfortunately make it impossible for me to take up the invitation at the present time, I should very much like to look again at the possibility at some later stage.

I too recall with great pleasure your visit to Britain earlier this year which was, as you point out, a clear demonstration of our common interest in strengthening the already good relations existing between our two countries.

As further demonstrations of these bonds of friendship, I am pleased to note that two of my Ministerial colleagues have plans to visit Cameroon shortly, Mrs Chalker at the end of this month and Mr Lamont in early 1986.

With best wishes
CDP

Enclosures—flag(s).....

PRIME MINISTER'S
PERSONAL MESSAGE
SERIAL No. T191D/85

subject
ic Ops;
master.

PAIX-TRAVAIL-PATRIE

République du Cameroun

Le Président
de la République
N°A325/CAB/PR

Yaoundé, le 17 OCT. 1985

Madame le Premier Ministre,

Voilà bientôt quelques mois que j'ai eu le grand honneur et le plaisir d'être accueilli avec chaleur par le Gouvernement de votre Excellence et le grand peuple britannique, ce dont je garde un souvenir des plus vivaces.

Ainsi que j'ai eu l'occasion de le dire à votre Excellence, cette visite témoigne de notre volonté d'imprimer une dynamique nouvelle au renforcement des relations tissées par l'histoire entre nos deux pays qui partagent, outre une langue commune, les mêmes idéaux de démocratie et de liberté.

Aussi, m'est-il très agréable de confirmer l'invitation que j'ai faite à votre Excellence de visiter le Cameroun où le peuple camerounais, mon Gouvernement et Moi-même serions très heureux de L'accueillir à une date à sa convenance.

Veuillez agréer, Madame le Premier Ministre, les assurances de ma très haute considération./-

Paul BIYA

Madame MARGARET THATCHER
PREMIER MINISTRE DU ROYAUME UNI DE
GRANDE BRETAGNE ET D'IRLANDE DU NORD
10 DOWNING STREET LONDON

TRANSLATION

Prime Minister,

A few months ago, I had the great honour and pleasure of being warmly welcomed by Your Excellency's Government and the great British people. I still have very fresh memories of this visit.

As I said then, this visit bears witness to our common desire to further strengthen the relations that history has forged between our two countries which, in addition to a common language, share the same ideals of freedom and democracy.

I am therefore very pleased to renew the invitation I extendend to Your Excellency to visit Cameroon. The Cameroonian people, my Government and I will be very pleased to welcome you on a date convenient to you.

Please accept, Prime Minister, the assurances of my highest consideration and esteem.

Paul BIYA

THE RIGHT HONOURABLE MARGARET THATCHER, M.P.
PRIME MINISTER OF THE UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND
10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON

FILE

Foreign and Commonwealth Office
London SW1A 2AH

Telephone 01-

UNCLASSIFIED

Your reference

G H Fry Esq
Paris

Our reference

Date 10 September 1985

Dear Graham,

EX-PRESIDENT AHMADOU AHIDJO - CAMEROON

1. Ex-President Ahmadou Ahidjo of Cameroon has sent the Prime Minister the text of an interview that the ex-President had with Agence Francaise de Presse. Would you pleae write a brief acknowledgement to Ex-President Ahidjo stating that the text has been received and the contents noted. The Ex-President's address is:-

BP 102
Saint Jacques de Grasse
Alpes Maritimes.

Yours ever
Joe Clark

J D Clark
West African Department

ECL

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

2 September 1985

I attach correspondence the Prime Minister has received from H.E. Ahmadou Ahidjo, President of the Cameroon.

I should be grateful if you could arrange for an acknowledgement to be sent to President Ahidjo through our Embassy.

(Charles Powell)

Peter Ricketts, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

cc Master.
Ops.

Son Excellence Ahmadou Ahidjo
Ancien Président de la République
Unie du Cameroun

B.P. 102
SAINT JACQUES DE GRASSE
ALPES MARITIMES
FRANCE

PRIME MINISTER'S
PERSONAL MESSAGE
SERIAL No. T153A/85.

M. note FCO
to action through
Anthony
CDP 1/9.

MRS MARGARET TATCHER
PRIME MINISTER OF UNITED KINGDOM
10th DOWNING STREET
LONDON
ENGLAND

PARIS, 26th August, 1985

R30

Your Excellency,

It is my great pleasure to send to you, for your own information, the full text of the interview I granted to Agence Française de Presse at its request at my residence on the Côte d'Azur.

Sent to FCO.

Hoping that this information will be of some interest to your Excellency, I remain,

Sincerly your's,

A. Ahidjo

SUBJECT
cc Master
Ops

HL

file ap

10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

16 July 1985

PRIME MINISTER'S
PERSONAL MESSAGE
SERIAL No. T137/85

Dear Mr. President,

Thank you for your letter of 10 June about the candidature of Mr. Makon Wehiong for the post of Executive Director of the International Tropical Timber Organisation.

As soon as I received your letter, we sent Mr. Wehiong's curriculum vitae to our delegation at the ITTO Council meeting in Geneva, which was already in session, with a request that his candidature be considered when the question came before the Council. In the event, as you will know, the Council postponed a decision on filling the post of Executive Director.

We shall naturally take full account of your views in reaching a decision when the Council meeting reconvenes in November. But as I am sure you will recognise, it is not fair to take a firm position on any particular candidate until we have had a chance of assessing the qualifications of all who may present themselves for the post.

With best wishes.

Yours sincerely

Margaret Thatcher

His Excellency M. Paul Biya

Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

15 July, 1985

Dear Charles,

Letter from President Biya of Cameroon

I enclose a letter (together with a translation) to the Prime Minister from President Biya of Cameroon seeking her support for Cameroon's candidate for the post of Executive Director of the International Tropical Timber Organisation (ITTO).

The Foreign Secretary believes it would be appropriate for the Prime Minister to reply personally to President Biya. During his official visit to the UK in May, the President was impressed with the warmth of the welcome he received, particularly from the Prime Minister. A personal reply from the Prime Minister would maintain the effect of that contact.

Although dated 10 June, we received the President's letter late on 24 June and Mr Wehiong's curriculum vitae was immediately forwarded to our delegation to the ITTO Council, which was then in session in Geneva, asking them to consider Mr Wehiong sympathetically when the question came up before the Council. We understand however that there were two other candidates for the post of Executive Director, one from Malaysia and the other from Gabon, and that Mr Wehiong had not in fact been officially nominated by his Government. Under these circumstances, we waited to hear the outcome of the Council meeting before drafting a reply to President Biya's letter. The meeting in fact adjourned without making any decisions on the post of Executive Director. It will reconvene in November.

Mr Makon Wehiong seems as well qualified for the job as the other two candidates - save for the fact that most of his training took place in the USSR. Before the Council meeting is reconvened in November there may well be other candidates. For both these reasons, and in accordance with our usual policy, the reply to President Biya is deliberately non-commital on the substance of his letter.

Yours ever,

Colin Budd

(C R Budd)
Private Secretary

C D Powell Esq
10 Downing Street

DSR 11 (Revised)

DRAFT: ~~minute/letter/teletext/despatch/note~~

TYPE: Draft/Final 1+

FROM:

The Prime Minister

DEPARTMENT: **TEL. NO:**

Reference

SECURITY CLASSIFICATION

Top Secret
Secret
Confidential
Restricted
Unclassified

TO:

H.E. M. Paul Biya
President of the Republic
of Cameroon

Your Reference

Copies to:

PRIVACY MARKING

.....In Confidence

CAVEAT.....

SUBJECT:

1. Thank you for your letter of 10 June about the candidature of Mr Makon Wehiong for the post of Executive Director of the International Tropical Timber Organisation.

2. ~~Upon receipt of~~ As soon as I received your letter, we sent Mr Wehiong's curriculum vitae ~~was sent~~ to our delegation at the ITTO Council meeting in Geneva, which was already in session, with a request that his candidature be considered when the question came before the Council. In the event, as you will know, the Council ~~did not reach~~ postponed a decision on filling the post of Executive Director.

3. When the Council meeting reconvenes in November we shall naturally take full account of your views in reaching a decision. But As I am sure you will ~~appreciate~~ recognize, ~~however~~, it is not ~~possible~~ fair to take a firm position ~~about~~ on any particular candidate until we have had a chance of assessing the qualifications of all who may present themselves for the post.

With best wishes

Ca

Enclosures—flag(s).....

SUBJECT
cc Master
OPS

STS 447/85

PEACE - WORK - HOMELAND

PRIME MINISTER'S
PERSONAL MESSAGE
SERIAL No. T 109c/85

REPUBLIC OF CAMEROON

The President of the Republic
No A 355/CAB/PR

Yaoundé, ~~[date illegible]~~ 10 JUNE 1985

DEAR PRIME MINISTER,

The International Tropical Wood Organisation* (OIBT) will be holding its inaugural session in mid-June this year. That will be the occasion of the implementation of some significant provisions of the International Agreement on Tropical Wood* which entered into force on 1 April 1985, in particular the appointment of the Executive Director.

PRIME MINISTER

In view of the economic significance of the European Economic Community (EEC) in this new organisation now being set up, and in the sure knowledge of the constant support which you have always accorded my country, I have the honour to ask you to lend your support to the candidature of Mr Samuel MAKON WEHIONG for the post of Executive Director of the OIBT. His curriculum vitae is attached as an annex.

Born on 21 January 1943 in NDOM (CAMEROON), Mr MAKON WEHIONG is at present Director General of the National Centre for Forestry Development (CENADEFOR). With regard to his education, he is a chemical engineer with a Master of Science in Engineering and a Special Research Diploma.

His active participation in the preparatory negotiations for the International Agreement on Tropical Wood, his varied education and

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* Translator's note: We have been unable to establish if this is the correct English title.

his considerable national and international experience make him a worthy candidate.

Thank you in advance for your support for this candidate,

[Complimentary close]
[Signature]
PAUL BIYA

HER EXCELLENCY MRS MARGARET THATCHER
PRIME MINISTER OF THE UNITED KINGDOM
LONDON

PAIX - TRAVAIL - PATRIE

REPUBLIQUE DU CAMEROUN

Le Président
de la République
N° A 355/CAB/PR.

Yaoundé, le 10 JUIN 1985

MADAME LE PREMIER MINISTRE,

L'Organisation Internationale des Bois Tropicaux (OIBT) tiendra sa session constitutive à la mi-juin de cette année. Cette échéance sera l'occasion de mettre en oeuvre certaines dispositions pertinentes de l'Accord International sur les Bois Tropicaux qui est entré en vigueur le 1er Avril 1985, notamment, la désignation du Directeur Exécutif.

MADAME LE PREMIER MINISTRE,

C'est en raison du poids économique de la Communauté Economique Européenne (C.E.E) au sein de cette nouvelle structure en cours de déploiement, et convaincu du soutien constant que vous n'avez jamais cessé d'apporter à mon pays, que j'ai l'honneur de vous demander de bien vouloir accorder votre appui à la candidature de Monsieur Samuel MAKON WEHIONG au poste de Directeur Exécutif de l'OIBT, et dont le curriculum vitae est joint en annexe.

Né le 21 Janvier 1943 à NDOM (CAMEROUN), Monsieur MAKON WEHIONG est actuellement Directeur Général du Centre National de Développement des Forêts (CENADEFOR). Sur le plan de la formation, l'intéressé est Ingénieur Chimiste Technologue, titulaire du Master of Science in Engineering et du Diplôme Spécial de Recherche.

Sa participation active aux négociations préparatoires à l'Accord International sur les Bois Tropicaux, sa formation polyvalente, ainsi que sa grande expérience nationale et internationale en font un candidat digne d'intérêt.

.../...

SON EXCELLENCE MME MARGARET THATCHER
PREMIER MINISTRE DU ROYAUME UNI

- LONDRES -

En vous remerciant d'avance de votre soutien à cette candidature, je vous prie d'agréer, MADAME LE PREMIER MINISTRE, l'assurance de ma très haute considération./-

PAUL BIYA

CURRICULUM - VITAE

NOM & PRENOM : MAKON WEHIONG

DATE ET LIEU DE NAISSANCE : 21 Janvier 1943 à NDOM

ETUDES :

1. - Etudes primaires : à IBONG ; Diplôme CEPE en 1957

2. - Etudes secondaires :

   a) Collège Evangélique de LIBAMBA (1957 - 1963)
   Diplômes : BEPC (1961) ; Probatoire (1963)

   b) Collège VOGT YAOUNDE (1963 - 1965)
   Diplôme : Baccalauréat Sciences Expérimentales (1965) avec Mention AB

3. - Etudes supérieures :

   a) Université d'Etat de MOSCOU (1965 - 1966)
   Préparation linguistique, technique et scientifique

   b) Académie Forestière et Polytechnique de LENINGRAD (1966 - 1971)

   - Etudes forestières
   - Etudes de chimie
   - Etudes de technologie et des industries forestières
   - Etudes d'économie industrielle

   Diplômes : - Ingénieur chimiste technologue
   - Master of science in engineering avec Mention Excellente
   - Diplôme spécial des recherches

TRAVAIL ET EXPERIENCE

- Deux stages pratiques aux complexes d'industrie de bois à KOTLAS et BRATSK (1970 et 1971)
- Stage au Laboratoire Central de HELSINKI (1970)
- Août 1971 - Février 1974 : Ingénieur technologue au Projet Forestier FAO/PNUD, chargé de la mise en valeur des forêts et du développement des industries forestières.

.../...

- Février 1974 - Avril 1976 : Co-Directeur du Projet Forestier FAO/PNUD.

  . Etude de factibilité du complexe d'industries mécaniques de bois de la forêt de DENG-DENG (SOFIBEL)

  . Etude de factibilité du complexe de pâte à papier d'Edéa (CAMEROUN) qui utilise dans un premier temps comme matière première fibreuse, le mélange tout venant des feuillus tropicaux

  . Planification et études de diverses unités industrielles avec le Ministère de l'Economie et du Plan

- Avril 1976 - Décembre 1976 : Expert Régional des Nations Unies (CEA ADDIS-ABEBA) en industries forestières.

- Janvier 1977 - Juin 1977 : Délégué Technique dans la Société Cellulose du CAMEROUN (CELLUCAM) : Réévaluation technico-économique du projet et mise à jour de l'étude de rentabilité.

- Août 1977 - Janvier 1978 : Co-Directeur du Projet Forestier FAO/PNUD : Préparation d'un Programme Forestier National.

- Janvier 1978 - Août 1981 : Directeur du Centre de Promotion du Bois : promotion de l'utilisation du bois au Cameroun et des bois camerounais à l'Etranger.

- 13 août 1981 à ce jour : Directeur Général du Centre National de Développement des Forêts (CENADEFOR) qui est chargé de la mise en valeur des forêts et de la promotion des bois camerounais tant à l'intérieur qu'à l'extérieur du Cameroun.

  . Inventaire forestier national
  . Inventaire et aménagement du domaine forestier permanent
  . Promotion industrielle et commerciale du bois camerounais
  . Assistance aux industriels forestiers camerounais
  . Normalisation des produits forestiers
  . Classement et conditionnement du bois

.../...

AUTRES STAGES ET SEMINAIRES

- Février 1975 : Consultation mondiale sur les panneaux dérivés du bois à New-Delhi (INDE)
- Mars 1975 : Séminaire IUFRO sur la préservation du bois à Abidjan (COTE-D'IVOIRE)
- Août 1979 : Séminaire sur l'industrie du meuble et de la menuiserie à Lahti (FINLANDE)
- Septembre 1980 : Séminaire sur l'industrie du sciage à Kotka (FINLANDE)
- Août 1981 : Séminaire sur la planification des industries mécaniques intégrées du bois à Svolen (TCHECOSLOVAQUIE)
- Mars 1982 : Séminaire interrégional sur les Bois Tropicaux
- Juin 1982 : Président de la Réunion Préparatoire Régionale pour l'Afrique en vue de la Première Consultation Mondiale sur l'Industrie du Bois et les produits du bois
- Janvier 1983 : Président de la Réunion Préparatoire Mondiale à la Première Consultation sur l'industrie du bois et les produits du bois
- Septembre 1984 : Stage sur le management des Industries Forestières à Kotka (FINLANDE).

ASSOCIATIONS INTERNATIONALES

- Membre de l'A.T.I.B.T.
- Membre de l'U.I.F.R.O.

LANGUES : Parlées et écrites
Français, Anglais, Russe, Allemand

SITUATION FAMILIALE : Marié et père de 3 enfants.

AVRIL 1985

Pure delighted so soon after your visit
to Cork to receive your letter of
date

INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

- Member of the I.T.T.T.A.
- Member of the U.I.F.R.O.

LANGUAGES: Spoken and written
French, English, Russian, German

MARITAL STATUS: Married with 3 children.

APRIL 1985

CURRICULUM VITAE

SURNAME AND FIRST NAME: MAKON WEHIONG

DATE AND PLACE OF BIRTH: 21 January 1943 in NDOM

EDUCATION:

1. Primary education: in IBONG; CEPE [Certificate of Elementary Primary Education] in 1957

2. Secondary education:
   a) Collège Evangélique de LIBAMBA (1957 - 1963)
      Certificates: BEPC [= O-levels] (1961); Grading examination 1963.

   b) Collège VOGT YAOUNDE (1963 - 1965)
      Certificates: Baccalauréat [= A-levels] in Experimental Sciences (1965), grade AB

3. Further education:
   a) MOSCOW State University (1965 - 1966)
      Linguistic, technical and scientific preparatory studies

   b) LENINGRAD Forestry and Polytechnic Academy (1966 - 1971)
      - Forestry
      - Chemistry
      - Technology and forest industries
      - Industrial management

      Certificates: - Chemical engineer
      - Master of Science in Engineering with distinction
      - Special Research Diploma

WORK AND EXPERIENCE

- Two practical training periods at the timber industry complexes in KOTLAS and BRATSK (1970 and 1971)

- Training period at the HELSINKI Central Laboratory (1970)

- August 1971 - February 1974: Technological engineer on the FAO/UNDP Forestry Project, responsible for developing forests and forest industries.

- February 1974 - April 1976: Co-Director of the FAO/UNDP Forestry Project.

. Feasibility* study of the complex of mechanical wood industries in the DENG-DENG forest (SOFIBEL)

. Feasibility* study of the Edea (CAMEROON) paper pulp complex which, in the initial stages, uses a mixture solely of tropical broad-leaved trees as fibrous raw material.

. Economic planning and studies of a variety of industrial units with the Ministry of Economy and Planning

- April 1976 - December 1976: United Nations Regional Expert (CEA ADDIS-ABABA) on forest industries.

- January 1977 - June 1977: Technical Representative in the CAMEROON Cellulose Company (CELLUCAM): Technical and economic reassessment of the project and updating the study on cost efficiency.

- August 1977 - January 1978: Co-Director of the FAO/UNDP Forestry Project: Preparation of a National Forestry Programme.

- January 1978 - August 1981: Director of the Centre for the Promotion of Timber: promotion of the use of timber in Cameroon and of Cameroonian timber abroad.

- 13 August 1981 onwards: Director General of the National Centre for Forestry Development (CENADEFOR) which is responsible for developing the forests and promoting Cameroonian timber both within and outside Cameroon.

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* Translator's note: the French uses the word "factitalité" here; we have been unable to trace it and have assumed it must mean "feasibility".

- National forest survey
- Survey and management of the permanent forest estate
- Industrial and commercial promotion of Cameroonian timber
- Aid for Cameroonian forestry industrialists
- Standardisation of timber products
- Grading and market preparation of timber

OTHER TRAINING PERIODS AND SEMINARS

- February 1975: World Consultation on wood-base panel material held in New Delhi (INDIA)

- March 1975: IUFRO Seminar on the preservation of wood held in Abidjan (IVORY COAST)

- August 1979: Seminar on the furniture and carpentry industry held in Lahti (FINLAND)

- September 1980: Seminar on the sawing industry held in Kotka (FINLAND)

- August 1981: Seminar on the economic planning of the mechanical wood industries held in Svolen (CZECHOSLOVAKIA)

- March 1982: Interregional seminar on Tropical Woods

- June 1982: Chairman of the African Regional Preparatory Meeting for the First World Consultation on the Timber Industry and timber products

- January 1983: Chairman of the World Preparatory Meeting at the First Consultation on the timber and timber products industry

- September 1984: Training period on the management of Forest Industries held in Kotka (FINLAND).

RESTRICTED
FM YAOUNDE 210830Z MAY 85
TO ROUTINE FCO
TELEGRAM NUMBER 78 OF 21 MAY
INFO ROUTINE DTI, ODA
INFO SAVING DOUALA (PASSED BY YAOUNDE)

VISIT OF PRESIDENT BIYA: FINAL STAGES AND CONCLUSIONS.

SUMMARY.

1. THE VISIT TO SCOTLAND PROVIDED A RELAXED ENDING TO A MOST SUCCESSFUL VISIT. SOME BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES EMERGED THERE: A CONSULTANCY CONTRACT FOR GOLF-COURSE DEVELOPMENT, AND PROSPECTS OF TOWN-PLANNING AND HOUSING CONTRACTS.
2. THE VISIT AS A WHOLE WAS A REMARKABLE SUCCESS: WHAT COUNTED WERE THE MEETINGS WITH THE QUEEN AND THE PRIME MINISTER. BECAUSE THE PRESIDENT WAS SO PLEASED WITH THE WAY THESE WENT A CLIMATE HAS BEEN CREATED IN WHICH BRITAIN WILL OBTAIN A MOST FAVOURABLE HEARING, POLITICALLY AND COMMERCIALLY. THIS WILL SPEED UP PROJECTS UNDER OUR AID/TRADE PACKAGE, AND WE COULD SECURE OTHER LARGE PROJECTS WITH ATP FINANCE. IN THE PRIVATE SECTOR OTHER LARGE PROJECTS HAVE MOVED FORWARD, AND THE MISUNDERSTANDING BLOCKING THE OPENING OF STANDARD CHARTERED HAS BEEN REMOVED.

1. THE LAST PART OF THE VISIT, TO SCOTLAND, WENT VERY WELL. THERE WAS AN END OF TERM ATMOSPHERE, AS IF WORK WAS OVER NOW THAT THE MEETINGS WITH THE QUEEN, THE PM AND MINISTERS WERE SUCCESSFULLY CONCLUDED. TIME KEEPING BEGAN TO SLIP FOR THE FIRST TIME (45 MINUTES LATE FOR TAKE-OFF FROM HEATHROW, 20 MINUTES LATE FOR DINNER). BUT THE SUN SHONE, THE HOTEL WAS MOST COMFORTABLE AND THE PRESIDENT CLEARLY ENJOYED ST ANDREWS AND THE OLD COURSE HOTEL, EVEN IF HE DID NOT PLAY (HE TOLD ME HE WAS TOO RUSTY AFTER A TWO-YEAR LAY-OFF).
2. THE DINNER AT EDINBURGH CASTLE WENT WELL IN AN INFORMAL ATMOSPHERE IN A FORMAL SETTING: IT WAS A PITY MADAME BIYA'S INTERPRETER SO SADLY NEGLECTED HER DUTIES, AND THAT PRESIDENT BIYA'S STAFF HAD NOT PREPARED A REPLY TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE'S WORDS OF WELCOME. NEXT MORNING PUNCTUALITY WAS RESTORED, AND DEPARTURE FROM THE AIRPORT WAS JUST ABOUT ON TIME.
3. MATAGA TOLD ME THAT THE PRESIDENT HAD INSTRUCTED HIM TO DRAFT A THANK YOU MESSAGE TO THE PM, IN WARMEST POSSIBLE TERMS, TO BE SENT FROM THE AIRCRAFT. HOPE THIS WAS RECEIVED. TEXT, WITH THE QUEEN'S NATIONAL DAY MESSAGE, WAS BROADCAST ON RADIO LESOTHO, AND TV CAMEROON HAS BEEN SHOWING FILM OF THE VISIT WITH UP-BEAT COMMENTARY.
COMMERCIAL PROSPECTS.
4. (A). THE PRESIDENT INSTRUCTED ME TO FIND A SCOTTISH GOLF ARCHITECT TO CONSTRUCT A FEW HOLES IN THE PALACE GROUNDS, TO UPGRADE THE 18 HOLE YAOUNDE COURSE, AND TO ADVISE ON ENLARGING THE 9 HOLE TIKO COURSE TO 18 HOLES. MICHAEL BONALLACK OF THE R AND A IS SUPPLYING ME WITH A SHORT LIST OF NAMES.
(B). THE PRESIDENT DREW THE ATTENTION OF THE MINISTER OF HOUSING AND TOWN PLANNING TO THE EXCELLENCE OF THE BRITISH CONCEPT OF SMALL HOUSES WITH EITHER THEIR OWN GARDEN, OR A COMMON SPACE SHARED BY A /FEW

FEW. HE WAS IMPRESSED BY BRITISH TOWN PLANNING. PARTICULARLY THE SMALL TOWNS HE HAD SEEN ON THE DRIVE TO ST ANDREWS. HE CONTRASTED THE HUMAN SCALE OF EVERYTHING WITH A FRENCH-BUILT HIGH-RISE LOW-COST SCHEME IN DOUALA, WHICH HE SAID WAS A DISASTER. THERE MUST BE A GOOD OPPORTUNITY FOR BRITISH, AND PARTICULARLY SCOTTISH, CONSULTANTS TO NEGOTIATE A MAJOR TOWN-PLANNING/HOUSING CONSULTANCY, AND I WILL FOLLOW THIS UP WITH PRESIDENCY AND MINISTER BABALE.

(C). GENERAL. ON THE FLIGHT TO SCOTLAND AND ON LEAVING PRESIDENT BIYA STRESSED TO ME, WITH GREAT EARNESTNESS, THE HE WOULD ENSURE THE PROJECTS IN OUR AID/CREDIT PACKAGE WOULD RECEIVE TOP PRIORITY, AND HIS PERSONAL ATTENTION.

CONCLUSIONS.

5. A DESPATCH FOLLOWS SHORTLY, BUT THERE IS NO DOUBT THE VISIT WAS A REMARKABLE SUCCESS. WHAT MATTERED, IT IS NOW CLEAR, WAS THE WAY THE PRESIDENT WAS RECEIVED BY THE QUEEN AND THE PRIME MINISTER. BOTH OF THESE MEETINGS WENT SO WELL, AND THE PRESIDENT FELT SO STRONGLY THAT HE HAD FALLEN AMONG FRIENDS (A FEELING THAT RUBBED OFF ON HIS ENTOURAGE), THAT WHATEVER HMG NOW SAYS WILL BE CAREFULLY LISTENED TO AND MARKED FOR SPECIAL ATTENTION: POLITICALLY AND COMMERCIALLY WE WILL GET MOST-FAVOURED-NATION TREATMENT. PROJECTS UNDER OUR AID-PROGRAMME WILL BE SPEEDED UP, AND NEW PROJECTS SHOULD BE OURS FOR THE ASKING (KRIBI PORT, OR DOUALA WATER SUPPLY FOR EXAMPLE) IF WE CAN OFFER ATP. PRIVATE SECTOR PROJECTS IN WHICH HMG IS NOT INVOLVED LOOK GOOD: BLUE CIRCLE SEEM ASSURED OF THE CEMENT PLANT, THE MISUNDERSTANDING OVER STANDARD CHARTERED HAS BEEN REMOVED, AND THE PROSPECTS OF A MAJOR UNILEVER INVESTMENT IN PALM-OIL PLANTATIONS, AND OF A MASSEY-FERGUSON ASSEMBLY LINE, HAVE MOVED AHEAD IN THE CORRIDORS DURING THE VISIT. THE ONLY DISAPPOINTMENT WAS THE APPARENT CANCELLATION OF MAROUA HOSPITAL. BUT THERE ARE INDICATIONS THIS MAY BE RESURRECTED.

6. A REMARKABLE SUCCESS, LAID ON AT SUCH SHORT NOTICE: MY WARMEST THANKS TO ALL CONCERNED, BUT ESPECIALLY WAD, GHF AND THE SCOTTISH OFFICE.

(REPEATED AS REQUESTED)

GLAZE

LIMITED
WAD
INFO.D
TRED
ODA
NEWS.D
PROTOCOL.D
PS
PS/MR RIFKIND
PS/PUS
MR FERGUSSON
MR JOHNSON

COPIES TO:
DTI (VIC.ST)
GHF.

Subject

PRIME MINISTER'S

PERSONAL MESSAGE

SERIAL No. T91/85

Prime Minister

CDP

17/5

(4)

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF CAMEROON TO THE PRIME MINISTER, ON LEAVING THE UNITED KINGDOM AIR SPACE

cc Master OPS

My dear Prime Minister,

As my visit to your great and beautiful country comes to a close I have great pleasure in thanking you most sincerely for the very warm welcome and all acts of kindness that were shown to us and to our delegation by yourself, the Government and the people of the United Kingdom. I greatly appreciate the quality, the level and the usefulness of the fruitful discussions held by our two delegations during my visit and I am sure they have gone a long way to consolidate the traditional bond of friendship and cooperation which so happily exists betwen our two countries. I want to reassure you, my dear Prime Minister, of my firm determination to strengthen, develop and diversify these relationships even further for the mutual benefit of our two countries and people.

MT

210

cc/c

Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

17 May 1985

NBPM

CDP 17/5

Dear Charles,

President Biya of Cameroon

In Mr Raison's absence overseas, Sir Crispin Tickell called on President Biya on 15 May. In view of the discussion of aid issues with the Prime Minister, you might wish to have the enclosed copy of the record of this subsequent discussion.

I am copying this letter and enclosure to Callum McCarthy and Matthew Cocks (Department of Trade and Industry).

Yours ever,

Peter Ricketts

(P F Ricketts)
Private Secretary

Charles Powell Esq
10 Downing Street

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CALL BY THE PERMANENT SECRETARY OF THE ODA ON PRESIDENT BIYA OF CAMEROON
LONDON 15 MAY 1985

President Biya

Mr Nkuete (Deputy Secretary General of the Presidency)

Mr Ongolo (Minister of Commerce and Industry)

Sir Crispin Tickell

Mr Glaze (HM Ambassador Yaoundé)

Dr Osborne (ODA)

In the absence of the Minister for Overseas Development, Sir Crispin Tickell called on President Biya of Cameroon at 5 pm on 15 May. The conversation, which was in French, lasted about 25 minutes.

2. President Biya spoke of his discussion with the Prime Minister before and at lunch that day, and of his interest in projects in Cameroon which might be financed under the £40 million aid and credit package agreed between the two governments in December 1983. He made particular reference to the five projects already on offer: agricultural technology, the four towns water supply, Douala water supply, North West rural electrification and the Bamenda ring road. The President spoke of four other possible projects: the Yaoundé Industrial Zone, the Mapé Dam, Douala port navigation aids and Kribi Port. Sir Crispin Tickell welcomed these ideas, and expressed our hope for rapid progress. President Biya said that Douala Port navigation aids had lower priority than the others. On Mapé Dam he agreed that the main part of the business had already gone to the French; but a share had been left for the Cameroonians themselves which he now wished to make over to the British. On Kribi Port he wanted there to be a British showpiece in Cameroon, and this might meet that requirement. He thought that at least three British companies already working in Cameroon had the necessary specialist experience. After further discussion Mr Ongolo suggested that a checklist should be given to him after the meeting, and that HM Ambassador should be asked to deal later with any points of difficulty.

3. Sir Crispin Tickell said that it would be an encouraging result of the visit if the President could say something specific to the press about discussion of these projects. It would be practical proof of the success of his visit and would give the right message to British industry. President Biya replied that he had already spoken to some of the press but that he would be happy to speak on the lines suggested. Sir Crispin Tickell then gave him a piece of paper which the President, after one small change, agreed to use. The text is at Annex 1.

/4.

4. Sir Crispin Tickell said that now that the projects seemed to be on their way, he wondered if it would be helpful if he could pay a visit to Cameroon later this year to examine progress and see if there were difficulties to be resolved. President Biya warmly welcomed this idea. He said that he had been about to issue an invitation himself. He would much enjoy the opportunity of showing Sir Crispin something of his country, the more so in view of his interest in the history and art of the Cameroon.

5. At dinner that evening Dr Osborne discussed with Mr Ongolo the list of projects under consideration and gave him a checklist (at Annex 2) for which he had asked. It was evident that there was some confusion among the Cameroonians about priorities between them and work already in hand, but there was a clear desire on their part to award British industry a fair share of contracts.

Overseas Development Administration
16 May 1985

Distribution

PS/Mr Raison
Mr Browning
Mr Ainscow
Mr Buist
Dr Osborne
Mr Ireton
Dr Healey
Mr Roberts

Private Secretary
PS/Mr Rifkind
PS/PUS
Mr Fergusson
Mr Tait
Mr M Daly

HM Ambassador, Yaoundé

Miss M Cund (Tsy)
Mr Everett (DTI)

Annex 1

Note for the Press for the use of President Biya of Cameroon

During the President's visit there was discussion of a number of projects in Cameroon which might be financed under the £40 million aid and credit package agreed between the two governments in December 1983. Both sides now hope that rapid progress can be made in carrying these projects forward. Among them are projects covering water supplies, electrification, and agricultural technology.

15 May 1985

Annex 2

BRITISH AID AND CREDIT PACKAGE

PROJECTS ON OFFER	Value (Aid plus Credit) £m
1. Ceneema; Agricultural Technology	2.0
2. Four Towns Water Supply	5.6
3. Douala Water Supply	6.4
4. North-West rural electrification	8.0
5. Bamenda ring road	8.0

OTHER POSSIBLE PROJECTS

Yaoundé Industrial Zone	
Douala Port Navigation Aids	3.0
Mapé Dam	
Kribi Port	

CONFIDENTIAL

file

cc MASTER SET

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

15 May 1985

Dear Colin,

PRIME MINISTER'S MEETING WITH PRESIDENT BIYA OF CAMEROON ON WEDNESDAY 15 MAY AT 12 NOON

I enclose a record of the Prime Minister's meeting with President Biya this morning.

I am copying this letter and enclosure to John Mogg (Department of Trade and Industry), Richard Broadbent (Chief Secretary's Office) and Michael McCulloch (Overseas Development Administration).

Yours sincerely,

Charles Powell

Charles Powell

Colin Budd, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

CONFIDENTIAL

RD

SRWANN

RECORD OF MEETING BETWEEN THE PRIME MINISTER AND PRESIDENT BIYA OF CAMEROON ON 15 MAY 1985 AT 12 NOON AT 10 DOWNING STREET

Present:

Prime Minister	President Biya
Mr Malcolm Rifkind MP	M Eteki Mboumoua (Foreign Minister)
HM Ambassador, Yaounde	M Ongolo (Minister of Trade and Industry)
Mr Charles Powell	Ambassador of Cameroon

The Prime Minister welcomed President Biya. Relations between Britain and Cameroon had not been as close as they should be. The President's visit was the opportunity to make a substantial move forward. There was great admiration in Britain for the steps which he had taken to liberalise the economy and strengthen democracy in Cameroon. The way in which the nation's resources were being developed was a model for other African countries. We were grateful for Cameroon's staunchness in abstaining on resolutions on the Falklands at the United Nations which were critical of the United Kingdom.

The Prime Minister continued that she hoped that their talks could concentrate on bilateral issues and in particular the development of trade, and on the situation in Africa.

President Biya thanked the Prime Minister for her kind words and for the honour done to him by the invitation to visit Britain. He agreed that the moment had come to strengthen relations between Cameroon and the United Kingdom in several fields. Some of his Ministers had already had an opportunity to discuss practical steps which would help achieve this goal. He was keen to give concrete form to co-operation and would want to put forward some specific

projects to use the £40 million line of credit which Britain had opened for Cameroon.

WEST AFRICA

President Biya said that the situation in Chad was a matter of particular concern to Cameroon. He had been able to discuss it briefly with the Foreign Secretary. Mr Mboumoua said that Chad was suffering both from endemic instability and serious drought. The problems had been made more difficult by Libya's intervention and also by Nigeria's decision to close its border with Chad. This meant that many of Chad's essential supplies had to pass through Douala. President Biya added that he hoped that Britain could bring influence to bear on Nigeria to reopen the border on humanitarian grounds; and also on Colonel Gadaffi to end Libyan intervention. There was no doubt that the presence of Libyan troops was the main obstacle to a peaceful settlement in Chad.

The Prime Minister said that the situation in Chad was indeed depressing. She understood that Cameroon had been generous in its help. We were ready to do what we could with Nigeria: but our relations with the Nigerian Government were not easy. They also had internal problems of their own. There was little we could do to deter Libyan intervention. Colonel Gadaffi used every opportunity to expand Libya's influence. It was for France to give a lead here. She had discussed the matter with President Mitterand some months ago.

SOUTHERN AFRICA

President Biya turned to the situation in southern Africa. Cameroon condemned apartheid and would continue to oppose it by every means. He hoped that European countries would exert pressure for change in South Africa. Cameroon had noted the recent steps by the South African Government to amend some aspects of their policy of racial discrimination. These were welcome and should be encouraged. The Prime Minister said that Britain was bringing its influence to bear

on South Africa. She had particularly taken President Botha to task on forced resettlement when he had visited the United Kingdom. She had therefore been pleased by the recent decisions to abrogate the law against mixed marriages and to stop forced resettlement. This might herald the end of petty apartheid. More generally, she thought that President Botha probably wanted to move faster than his party would let him. One had to maintain pressure on him to make progress in the direction we all wanted at a pace which would avoid great internal upheaval, recognising that the risk of such an upheaval was greater still if there was no movement.

President Biya said that South Africa should stop its support for UNITA in Angola and should respect the sovereignty of its neighbours and stop trying to destabilise them. On Namibia, Cameroon supported Security Council Resolution 435 and rejected the notion of a link between a Namibian settlement and the withdrawal of Cuban forces from Angola. He very much hoped that the European countries would not recognise the interim internal administration in Namibia which South Africa was establishing. The Prime Minister observed that intervention in Angola and the continuing difficulties over Namibia were costly for South Africa. She believed that South Africa would like to reach a settlement. A limiting factor was how to bring about in parallel, though without explicit linkage, the withdrawal of Cuban forces from Angola. There was no question of our recognising the interim internal administration in Namibia. We were also doing our best to help President Machel in Mozambique; and supporting Zimbabwe and Botswana through our aid and military training programmes. Indeed we were doing a great deal to support sensible solutions in Southern Africa.

BILATERAL RELATIONS

The Prime Minister invited President Biya to tell her about Cameroon's development plans and how Britain could help through the aid and trade package which we had put together. She understood that the President would also like to develop

closer parliamentary links with Britain.

President Biya said that Cameroon was committed to liberalising its economy. The aim was to establish responsible free enterprise, while preserving the African sense of community. Cameroon was anxious for foreign investment and had taken steps to favour it, for instance through tax exemptions. He believed that Cameroon offered good prospects for foreign investors as a stable country allowing the free transfer of funds and with low inflation. He had just given his agreement to the opening of a branch in Cameroon by Standard Chartererd Bank and would like Blue Circle to go ahead with their proposed investment in a cement plant.

The Prime Minister said that she was concerned that it had not yet been possible to agree on the take-up of our line of credit. HM Ambassador commented that he understood that instructions had been given in the last few days to speed up agreement on the four projects which Britain had already offered to finance. Beyond this, we wanted to reach rapid agreement on further projects to use up the uncommitted balance of the £40 million. The Prime Minister said that she understood that the President might want to use some of the aid and credit for the Maroua Hospital. President Biya said that he had a long list of projects. Perhaps this was not the occasion to go into detail. But as regards the Maroua Hospital, Cameroon already had difficulty in staffing its other hospitals and construction of a further hospital would have to wait until more doctors were available.

The Prime Minister encouraged President Biya to provide details of projects he had in mind. President Biya read quickly from a list which included rural electrification and water projects, schools, agricultural equipment, the Mape dam, the Yaounde industrial zone and a ring road. The Prime Minister said that she would like to feel that as a result of the President's visit they had been able to move matters forward on some of these projects in a concrete way. Mr.

Ongolo said that Cameroon certainly intended to use up the whole aid and credit package between now and the middle of 1987. Four or five projects were already being discussed which would use up some £25m. The balance might be devoted to the Mape dam and the Yaounde industrial zone. There was also a project to modernise the Port of Douala which might be of interest. The Prime Minister said that discussions should be taken further when Sir Crispin Tickell called on the President that afternoon. HM Ambassador suggested that, in addition, it would be well received if President Biya were to agree that a newly formed consortium of British construction companies should be given a major design and construct project. A good example would be the proposed new Port at Kribi. President Biya said that he saw no objection to this.

The meeting ended at 1300 hours.

CDP

15 May 1985

002/110

CDP
15/5

Treasury Chambers, Parliament Street, SW1P 3AG

C Powell Esq
Private Secretary to the Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
London SW1

15 May 1985

Dear Charles

CAMEROON: OFFICIAL VISIT OF PRESIDENT BIYA

The Chief Secretary has seen Matthew Cocks' letter of 14 May about a possible further offer to the Cameroonians of finance for a project under the aid/credit package.

As he acknowledges, this would breach the interdepartmentally agreed ceiling for mixed credit initiations. The Chief Secretary would prefer therefore to avoid a commitment to a further project if possible, at any rate until EX Committee has had a chance to consider the issues next week.

I am copying this letter to Michael McCulloch (ODA), Anthony Carey (FCO), Jack Gill (ECGD) and Matthew Cocks (DTI).

Yours sincerely

Richard Broadbent

R J BROADBENT
Private Secretary

Cameroon B. SPIACG

Revised version, please
CM -

PRIME MINISTER'S LUNCH FOR PRESIDENT BIYA

15 MAY 1985

MR PRESIDENT, MADAME BIYA, YOUR EXCELLENCIES, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN.

welcome

LET ME START, MR PRESIDENT BY SAYING HOW ~~VERY PLEASED~~ delighted we all ~~WE~~ ARE THAT YOU ACCEPTED OUR INVITATION TO MAKE THIS OFFICIAL VISIT TO BRITAIN. ~~AND TO~~ WE EXTEND TO YOU (& your whole delegation) A VERY WARM WELCOME.

WE TAKE IT AS A PARTICULAR COMPLIMENT THAT MADAME BIYA HAS ACCOMPANIED YOU.

WE ARE VERY FAMILY-MINDED IN BRITAIN: AND ~~PERHAPS~~ I AM SURE YOU HAVE DISCOVERED, AS I HAVE, THAT OVERSEAS VISITS WHERE HUSBAND AND WIFE CAN TRAVEL TOGETHER ARE VERY OFTEN THE MOST SUCCESSFUL.

WE WANT YOU TO ENJOY YOUR TIME IN BRITAIN.

YOU ALREADY KNOW OUR COUNTRY WELL - ALTHOUGH I HAVE THE FEELING THAT YOU KNOW SCOTLAND RATHER BETTER THAN YOU KNOW ENGLAND: SOMETHING ~~CONNECTED~~ TO DO WITH A GAME CALLED GOLF I BELIEVE.

Historical Associations

WE WELCOME YOU, MR PRESIDENT, AS THE ~~REPRESENTATIVE~~ Leader OF A PEOPLE WITH WHOM BRITAIN'S ~~HAS KNOWN WELL FOR A~~ CONNECTIONS GO BACK A ~~VERY~~ LONG TIME, ~~GOING~~ BACK INDEED TO THE DAYS WHEN OUR ROYAL NAVY SHIPS CAME TO YOUR WATERS TO SUPPRESS THE SLAVE TRADE.

AND AFTER A PERIOD IN WHICH OUR MISSIONARIES AND OUR TRADERS WERE ACTIVE WE CAME TO

ADMINISTER WHAT ARE NOW YOUR NORTH-WEST AND SOUTH-WEST PROVINCES, AS A RESULT OF WHICH ONE-FIFTH OF YOUR PEOPLE TRADITIONALLY SPEAK ENGLISH.

SUPPORT FOR ENGLISH LANGUAGE

AND NOW WITH YOUR POLICY OF BILINGUALISM, WHICH YOU HAVE BEEN EXPLAINING TO ME, THE OTHER FOUR-FIFTHS OF YOUR PEOPLE ARE LEARNING ENGLISH, TOO.

~~THIS~~ WE WELCOME THIS AND ~~WILL~~ SHALL ASSIST YOU WITH AS FAR AS WE ARE ABLE.

I KNOW THAT YOU YOURSELF HAVE SET YOUR PEOPLE A GOOD EXAMPLE MR PRESIDENT, AND THAT YOUR RECENT SPEECHES IN ENGLISH ~~IN THE TOWN OF BAMENDA~~ HAVE BEEN VERY WELL RECEIVED.

Falklands

MAY I SAY HOW VERY MUCH WE WELCOMED ONE PARTICULAR DEMONSTRATION OF YOUR FRIENDSHIP AND FAIRMINDEDNESS, AND THAT IS YOUR COUNTRY'S DECISION TO ABSTAIN AT THE UNITED NATIONS ON THE QUESTION OF THE FALKLANDS.

THE PRINCIPLE OF SELF-DETERMINATION, THE RIGHT OF A PEOPLE TO CHOOSE THEIR FUTURE IS ONE WHICH BOTH BRITAIN AND CAMEROON HAVE REASON TO CHERISH: AND WE HOPE THAT YOU WILL CONTINUE TO DO EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO SUSTAIN THESE PRINCIPLES.

SUCCESS OF CAMEROON'S ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

WE WELCOME YOU, TOO, AS PRESIDENT OF A STABLE AND PROSPEROUS NATION WHOSE ~~CONSIDERBALE~~ great NATURAL RESOURCES ARE BEING CAREFULLY USED TO PROMOTE DEVELOPMENT AND A BETTER STANDARD OF LIVING FOR ALL YOUR PEOPLE, WITHOUT TAKING ON TOO

MANY FOREIGN DEBTS.

CAMEROON HAS WON THE RESPECT OF THE INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC COMMUNITY, AND HAS ACHIEVED A VERY GOOD CREDIT RATING IN THE MARKET-PLACE.

We particularly admire your success in making Cameroon almost self-sufficient in food.

Contacts with Britain

WE WELCOME YOU, TOO, AS A LEADER SEEKING TO DIVERSIFY AND TO DEVELOP CONTACTS WITH THE WESTERN NATIONS, WITH BRITAIN IN THE FOREFRONT.

AFTER YOUR INDEPENDENCE BRITAIN SEEMED TO WITHDRAW FROM CENTRE STAGE AND TAKE A PLACE IN THE WINGS.

NOW WE WANT TO COME BACK ONTO THE STAGE AND ARE GRATEFUL FOR THE ENCOURAGEMENT WHICH YOU HAVE GIVEN US.

We also want to sell more trade.

THIS IS THE MESSAGE WHICH OUR MINISTER OF

Trade links

We shall like to see more contacts between our two ~~[illegible]~~ ~~[illegible]~~ & I hope that this is something which can be pursued ~~[illegible]~~ during your visit.

TRADE, PAUL CHANNON, TOOK TO YAOUNDE AND TO BAMENDA on his visit A FEW MONTHS AGO, as did Lynda Chalker when she also visited you.

~~WE WERE DELIGHTED TO SEE A CONCRETE RESULT FROM THIS VISIT WITH THE AWARD OF THE BAFFOUSSAM AIRPORT CONTRACT TO A BRITISH FIRM.~~

WE WANT TO PLAY A BIGGER PART IN YOUR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND WE HAVE A GREAT DEAL TO OFFER. I hear that 25 British firms have already opened offices in your country: that is a sign that we are ready to go out & get business.

Peroration

MR PRESIDENT, YOUR VISIT IS A VERY IMPORTANT STEP IN RELATIONS BETWEEN BRITAIN AND CAMEROON.

WE WANT IT TO BE A SUCCESS: INDEED I BELIEVE THAT WE CAN BOTH SAY, ON THE BASIS OF YOUR TALKS TODAY AND THIS FRIENDLY LUNCH, THAT IT

IS A SUCCESS FOR BOTH OUR COUNTRIES - A SUCCESS WHICH WE WANT TO SEE REFLECTED IN PRACTICAL TERMS BY INCREASED CONTACTS, INCREASED TRADE, THE WIDER USE OF THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND MORE ACTIVE WORKING TOGETHER BETWEEN OUR TWO GOVERNMENTS.

I ASK YOU TO DRINK A TOAST TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF CAMEROON AND TO THE FRIENDSHIP OF OUR TWO PEOPLES.

7/145/30556

DEPARTMENT OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY
1-19 VICTORIA STREET
LONDON SW1H 0ET
Telephone (Direct dialling) 01-215) 5144
GTN 215)
(Switchboard) 215 7877

From the Minister for Trade

Prime Minister
Received after the other briefing - You will certainly want to pursue with the President.
CDP 14/5.

Charles Powell Esq
Private Secretary to The Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
LONDON
SW1

May 1985

Mr. Glaze

Dear Charles

CAMEROON: OFFICIAL VISIT OF PRESIDENT BIYA

When Mr Channon went to Heathrow yesterday to welcome President Biya, the Cameroon Ambassador told the British welcoming party that the President wanted to mark the occasion by giving the UK a major project which would use up the as yet uncommitted balance of the £40 million aid and credit package which we have offered to Cameroon. He said that the President would, however, expect us to take the initiative in indicating which project we would like. The Prime Minister will be holding talks with the President at noon tomorrow and this would provide a good opportunity to put forward a candidate.

The Prime Minister has already received a brief, prepared by the ODA, on the aid/credit package. Our objective is to get the Cameroonians to go firm on the four projects which we have already offered to finance under the package. These would amount to a total of £22 million's worth of business for the UK. We assume that the Cameroonians are now thinking of earmarking for the UK a project in addition to these.

From discussions which our Ambassador, Mr Glaze has since had with the Cameroonian party, it is clear that they have not given much thought to possible projects. There are many projects which could be considered. Separate notes on five are enclosed. Of these, two would probably fit well into the unoffered balance of the existing package: Maroua Hospital and Mape Dam. Our preference would be to put forward the Maroua Hospital project with the Mape Dam as our second choice.

Maroua Hospital has a high priority with the President and we believe that the Cameroonians would wish to proceed quickly on it. It is situated in the English-speaking part of Cameroon, where British commercial involvement would be particularly welcomed and the project would have a high UK content, with opportunities for a range of furnishings and equipment suppliers. ODA currently regard certain of the hospital's specifications as excessive, but there is a reasonable prospect that these problems can be resolved with the Cameroonians.

Mape Dam would be our first reserve. There are a number of problems which are briefly indicated in the enclosed notes. Mr Glaze's discussions with the President's party suggest that the Cameroonians would be reluctant to reject the existing French offer for Mape and award the whole project to the UK.

There are two further points of which the Prime Minister should be aware and which would apply to offers of ATP finance in connection with any of the projects. First, any offer of ATP would have to be subject to the technical and economic appraisal of the ODA on developmental grounds. Second, we have already reached the inter-departmentally agreed ceiling for initiating (as opposed to matching) offers of mixed credit finance. In current circumstances we would be unable to offer any further initiations (including under the existing Cameroonian package) this financial year. However, the EX Committee is to discuss this on 20 May.

[Only true if you assume that Samanala Wewa is agreed, which it isn't]

Finally, I can report that Mr Channon has just, this afternoon, received a phone call from the Cameroonian Minister for Commerce, Minister Ongolo. M. Ongolo said that President Biya had asked him to pass on two pieces of good news. First, that the Cameroonians would like Blue Circle to go ahead with their intended investment in a cement plant, which the Cameroonians plan to locate at Limbe, and secondly that Standard Chartered Bank should proceed with opening a branch in the Cameroon wherever they wanted to locate it. Both these projects are UK companies investing in the Cameroon and fall outside the aid/credit package. We do not think that they are the major project that President Biya intends to offer us, as above.

There has not been sufficient time to agree this advice with the other interested Departments. I am accordingly copying this letter to Michael McCulloch (ODA), Anthony Cary (FCO), Richard Broadbent (Treasury) and to Jack Gill (ECGD).

Yours ever

Matthew

MATTHEW COCKS
Private Secretary to the
Minister for Trade (Paul Channon)

YAOUNDE II AIRPORT: PLESSEY AIRPORTS

The present airport at Yaounde is small and badly sited. The proposed new international airport would cost about £150m. The Italian Government has provided free studies for the airport but Italy is unlikely to be favoured for the implementation. Plessey are talking to Canadian civil contractor, COLLEVINO, to set up a consortium for the purpose of bidding for Yaounde II. The UK content would be £50-75m. They would consider including the Italians and the French in the consortium and hope to make a premptive bid before the project goes to international tender at the end of this year. Plessey will not be seeking ATP as they have been advised by ODA that a new international airport in Cameroon would not be considered developmentally sound. The Cameroonians sent a delegation to Canada last week and may be aware of their intention to bid.

MAPE DAM PROJECT

A water supply storage project with a mini-hydro scheme as an integral part.

Value

Unclear - total value variously quoted between £31m and £56m with an offshore content of between £19m and £35m. Costing done by Balfour Beatty indicate that it would be very much at the lower end of this scale.

Funding

The French have offered a soft loan on the most attractive phase and for part of the other phases, the balance to come from multilateral agencies. However the multilateral aid support seems likely to collapse because of French action apparently designed to circumvent the competitive tendering rules. The EDF have already withdrawn.

UK Interests

Balfour Beatty wish to undertake the whole project. Two other UK contractors are interested in parts of the work.

Problems

Difficult to ~~dislog~~ed the French. The value of the project is less than first thought and the French already have enough loan money committed to cover most of the project. OECD rules preclude the use of ATP to match soft loans.

999-80

MAROUA HOSPITAL

This proposed 300 bed hospital, to be located at Maroua in the northern (English speaking) part of the country, is of particular interest to the President. A consortium of United Medical Enterprises and Tarmac has indicated that the total project, as specified by the Cameroonians, would cost £22.3m, of which £18.5m would be UK content. Laing's have expressed an interest but are not believed to be actively promoting themselves.

ODA accept the developmental case for a 300 bed hospital at this location, but believe it is over-specified and could be reduced by 25% in building size and cost. They would also wish to include as an integral part of the package under ATP/TC, the provision for three years of an administrator, engineer and matron, as well as of consumable items, to ensure the smooth running of the hospital.

YAOUNDE INDUSTRIAL ZONE

The UK subsidiary of Daewoo has expressed an interest to the Cameroonian Government in a proposed Industrial Zone development at yaounde. No project values are available. The project itself is not well defined as yet, but ODA are not convinced that there is an economic requirement for such a Zone.

999-80

KRIBI PORT

Feasibility studies have been completed for the construction of a mixed commercial and industrial Port at Kribi in Southern Cameroon. The estimated foreign content would be £70-£80m. British contractors would be strongly interested in a design and construct contract. This would also provide opportunities for the provision of handling equipment and services on an ongoing basis. As a result of involvement in the Port project British companies could also be well placed to bid for a Liquified National Gas Plant, still at an early planning stage, for Kribi in the early 1990's.

Mr Powell

We spoke. Diagram below.

CPBudd 14/5

VISIT OF HIS EXCELLENCY THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF CAMEROON AND MADAME BIYA
13-17 MAY 1985

ADMINISTRATIVE ARRANGEMENTS
(to be read in conjunction with the printed programme)

Monday 13 May

Arrival

When the aircraft has landed a representative of the British Airports Authority will escort the greeting party from the Southside VIP Suite to the aircraft. His Excellency the Ambassador of the Republic of Cameroon and Madame Oyono will board the aircraft and accompany His Excellency the President and Madame Biya to the tarmac where the following will welcome them:

The Baroness Cox
Baroness in Waiting to Her Majesty the Queen

The Rt Hon Paul Channon
Minister for Trade

Mr James Glaze
Her Majesty's Ambassador at Yaoundé

Mrs Glaze

Brigadier Alan Cowan
Secretary, Government Hospitality

Group Captain Anthony O'Neill
Government Hospitality Escort Officer

Wing Commander Max Higson
Government Hospitality Escort Officer

The Hon Diana Makgill
Lady Ceremonial Officer

The Official Suite and the unofficial party will disembark and the party will proceed to the Southside VIP Suite.

Transport

Cars are provided by Government Hospitality for the President and Madame Biya and members of the Official Suite throughout the visit.
Seating plans are attached at Annex 1.

APRAAW

Guard of Honour Ceremony

The procedure is described at Annex 11.

Interpretation

Throughout the programme Monsieur Tening Mongwa will interpret for His Excellency the President.
Mrs M Fairweather will interpret at the courtesy call on the Prime Minister at 10 Downing Street and at the luncheon at Buckingham Palace on 14 May and at talks and luncheon at 10 Downing Street on 15 May.

Participation of the Official Suite in His Excellency the President's Programme

His Excellency Monsieur L F Oyono, the Ambassador of the Republic of Cameroon to London, and Mr M J C Glaze, Her Majesty's Ambassador at Yaoundé, will accompany His Excellency the President throughout the programme.

Tuesday 14 May

Guard of Honour Ceremony

All members of the Official Suite.

Courtesy call on the Prime Minister at 10 Downing Street

His Excellency Monsieur Eteki Mboumoua
His Excellency Monsieur Mataga
His Excellency Monsieur Nkuete
His Excellency Monsieur Babale
His Excellency Monsieur Nomo Ongolo
His Excellency Professor Anomah Ngu
His Excellency Monsieur Oyono
Monsieur Mongwa

Luncheon hosted by Her Majesty The Queen at Buckingham Palace

His Excellency Monsieur Eteki Mboumoua and Madame Eteki
His Excellency Monsieur Mataga and Madame Mataga
His Excellency Monsieur Nkuete
His Excellency Monsieur Babale and Madame Babale
His Excellency Monsieur Nomo Ongolo
His Excellency Professor Anomah Ngu
His Excellency Monsieur Oyono and Madame Oyono
(M Beleoken, Professor Edzoa and Lieutenant de Vaisseau Motaze will accompany his Excellency the President to Buckingham Palace)

Wreath laying at Westminster Abbey

All members of the Official Suite.

APRAAW

Wednesday 15 May

Visit to the Tower of London

All members of the Official Suite.

For the visit to the Jewel House the party will split into two groups:

Group 1

His Excellency President Biya
His Excellency Monsieur Eteki Mboumoua
His Excellency Monsieur Mataga
His Excellency Monsieur Nkuete
His Excellency Monsieur Babale
His Excellency Monsieur Nomo Ongolo
His Excellency Professor Anomah Ngu
His Excellency Monsieur Oyono
Monsieur Mongwa
Mr Glaze

Group 2

Madame Biya
Madame Eteki
Madame Mataga
Madame Babale
Madame Oyono
Monsieur Beleoken
Monsieur Ndongo
Commandant Benae Mpeke
Professor Edzoa
Lieutenant Motaze
Madame Onambele
Mrs Glaze

Talks with the Prime Minister at 10 Downing Street

Republic of Cameroon

His Excellency Monsieur Eteki Mboumoua
His Excellency Monsieur Nomo Ongolo
His Excellency Monsieur Oyono
Monsieur Mongwa (Interpreter)
(Monsieur Beleoken, Professor Edzoa and Lieutenant de Vaisseau Motaze will accompany His Excellency the President to 10 Downing Street)

APRAAW

United Kingdom

Mr Rifkind
Mr Fergusson
Mr Glaze
Private Secretary
Mrs Fairweather
(Interpreter)

Luncheon hosted by the Prime Minister at 10 Downing Street

His Excellency Monsieur Eteki Mboumoua and Madame Eteki
His Excellency Monsieur Mataga and Madame Mataga
His Excellency Monsieur Nkuete
His Excellency Monsieur Babale and Madame Babale
His Excellency Monsieur Nomo Ongolo
His Excellency Professor Anomah Ngu
His Excellency Monsieur Oyono and Madame Oyono
Monsieur Beleoken

Thursday 16 May

Visit to St Andrews

His Excellency Professor Anomah Ngu
His Excellency Monsieur Oyono
Monsieur Beleoken
Monsieur Mongwa
Monsieur Fame Ndongo
Commandant Benae Mpeke
Professor Edzoa
Lieutenant de Vaisseau Motaze

Dinner hosted by the Secretary of State for Scotland and the Hon Mrs Yonger

All members of the Official Suite

Madame Biya's Programme

Throughout her separate programme Madame Biya will be accompanied by:

Madame Eteki
Madame Mataga
Madame Babale
Madame Oyono
Mrs Glaze
Madame Onambele
The Hon Diana Makgill

APRAAW

Separate programmes for other members of the Official Suite

The following will attend the dinner hosted by the Minister for Trade, The Rt Hon Paul Channon MP, at Lancaster House at 2000 on Tuesday 14 May:

His Excellency Monsieur Eteki Mboumoua
His Excellency Monsieur Mataga
His Excellency Monsieur Nkuete
His Excellency Monsieur Babale
His Excellency Monsieur Nomo Ongolo
His Excellency Professor Anomah Ngu
His Excellency Monsieur Oyono

R E Morgan
Protocol Department
Foreign & Commonwealth Office
273 3582

APRAAW

ANNEX 1

CAR PLANS

MONDAY 13 MAY

Heathrow Airport Hotel Inter-Continental

Car 1	His Excellency the President His Excellency Monsieur Oyono Special Branch Officer
Car 2	Special Branch Officer Captain Ivo Cameroon Security Officer
Car P (Protocol Car)	Monsieur Beleoken Monsieur Mongwa Professor Edzoa Lieutenant Motaze Group Captain O'Neill
Car 3	Madame Biya Madame Oyono The Hon Diana Makgill Cameroon Security Officer
Car 4	His Excellency Monsieur Eteki Mboumoua His Excellency Monsieur Mataga Mr Glaze Special Branch Officer
Car 5	His Excellency Monsieur Nkuete His Excellency Monsieur Babale Wing Commander Higson
Car 6	His Excellency Monsieur Nomo Ongolo His Excellency Professor Anomah Ngu Monsieur Foumane
Car 7	Madame Eteki Madame Mataga Madame Babale
Car 8	Madame Onambele Mrs Glaze
Car 9	Monsieur Fame Ndongo Commandant Benae Mpeke
Car 10 (Luggage Car)	Cameroon Official

APRAAW

TUESDAY 14 MAY

Hotel to Foreign and Commonwealth Office Quadrangle in advance of the President

Car 4	His Excellency Monsieur Eteki Mboumoua His Excellency Monsieur Mataga His Excellency Monsieur Oyono Special Branch Officer
Car P (Protocol Car)	Monsieur Beleoken Monsieur Mongwa Professor Edzoa Wing Commander Higson
Car 5	His Excellency Monsieur Nkuete His Excellency Monsieur Babale Mr Glaze
Car 6	His Excellency Monsieur Nomo Ongolo His Excellency Professor Anomah Ngu
Car 7	Madame Eteki Madame Mataga Madame Babale
Car 8	Madame Oyono Madame Onambele Mrs Glaze
Car 9	Monsieur Fame Ndongo Commandant Benae Mpeke

Hotel to Foreign and Commonwealth Office Quadrangle - Presidential Party

Car 1	His Excellency the President Madame Biya Special Branch Officer
Car 2 (Police Car)	Special Branch Officer Captain Ivo Cameroon Security Officer
Car 3	Lieutenant Motaze Group Captain O'Neill The Hon Diana Makgill

Foreign and Commonwealth Office Quadrangle to hotel

Car 1	His Excellency the President Madame Biya Special Branch Officer

APRAAW

Car 2 (Police Car)	Special Branch Officer Captain Ivo Cameroon Security Officer
Car 3	Lieutenant Motaze Group Captain O'Neill The Hon Diana Makgill
Car P (Protocol Car)	Monsieur Beleoken Monsieur Mongwa Professor Edzoa Wing Commander Higson
Car 4	His Excellency Monsieur Eteki Mboumoua His Excellency Monsieur Mataga His Excellency Monsieur Oyono Special Branch Officer
Car 5	His Excellency Monsieur Nkuete His Excellency Monsieur Babale Mr Glaze
Car 6	His Excellency Monsieur Nomo Ongolo His Excellency Professor Anomah Ngu
Car 7	Madame Eteki Madame Mataga Madame Babale
Car 8	Madame Oyono Madame Onambele Mrs Glaze
Car 9	Monsieur Fame Ndongo Commandant Benae Mpeke

<u>Hotel to Buckingham Palace and return to hotel</u>

Car 1	His Excellency the President His Excellency Monsieur Oyono Special Branch Officer
Car 2 (Police Car)	Special Branch Officer Captain Ivo Cameroon Security Officer
Car 3	Madame Biya Madame Oyono The Hon Diana Makgill

APRAAW

Car P (Protocol Car)	Monsieur Beleoken Monsieur Mongwa Professor Edzoa Lieutenant Motaze Group Captain O'Neill
Car 4	His Excellency Monsieur Eteki Mboumoua His Excellency Monsieur Mataga Mr Glaze Special Branch Officer
Car 5	His Excellency Monsieur Nkuete His Excellency Monsieur Babale
Car 6	His Excellency Monsieur Nomo Ongolo His Excellency Professor Anomah Ngu
Car 7	Madame Eteki Mrs Glaze
Car 8	Madame Mataga Madame Babale

Hotel to Westminster Abbey and return to hotel

As for plan for journey from Heathrow Airport, excluding car 10.

Hotel to Lancaster House and return to hotel

To be announced.

WEDNESDAY 15 MAY

Hotel to HM Tower of London and return to hotel

As for plan for journey from Heathrow Airport, excluding car 10.

Hotel to 10 Downing Street for talks and return to hotel after luncheon

Car 1	His Excellency the President His Excellency Monsieur Oyono Special Branch Officer
Car 2 (Police Car)	Special Branch Officer Captain Ivo Cameroon Security Officer

APRAAW

Car P (Protocol Car)	Monsieur Beleoken Monsieur Mongwa Professor Edzoa Lieutenant Motaze Group Captain O'Neill
Car 4	His Excellency Monsieur Eteki Mboumoua His Excellency Monsieur Nomo Ongolo Mr Glaze

Hotel to 10 Downing Street for luncheon and return to hotel

Car 5	His Excellency Monsieur Mataga His Excellency Monsieur Nkuete Wing Commander Higson
Car 6	His Excellency Monsieur Babale His Excellency Monsieur Anomah Ngu

Hotel to 10 Downing Street for Luncheon/10 Downing Street to the Hospitals for Sick Children and return to hotel

Car 3	Madame Biya Madame Oyono The Hon Diana Makgill Cameroon Security Officer
Car 7	Madame Eteki Madame Mataga Madame Babale Cameroon Security Officer
Car 8	Madame Onambele Mrs Glaze

Hotel to Embassy of the Republic of Cameroon and return to hotel

As for plan for journey from Heathrow Airport, excluding car 10.

THURSDAY 16 MAY

Hotel to Heathrow Airport

As for plan for journey from Heathrow Airport.

Edinburgh Airport to The Royal and Ancient Golf Club and subsequent journies until arrival at Caledonian Hotel

Car 1	His Excellency the President His Excellency Monsieur Oyono Special Branch Officer

APRAAW

Car 2 (Police Car)	Special Branch Officer Captain Ivo Cameroon Security Officer
Car P (Protocol Car)	Monsieur Beleoken Monsieur Mongwa Professor Edzoa Lieutenant Motaze Group Captain O'Neill
Car 5	Mis Excellency Monsieur Ngu Mr Glaze
Car 9	Monsieur Ndongo Commandant Benae Mpeke

Edinburgh Airport to Caledonian Hotel

Car 3	Madame Biya Madame Oyono The Hon Diana Makgill Cameroon Security Officer
Car 4	His Excellency Monsieur Eteki Mboumoua His Excellency Monsieur Mataga His Excellency Monsieur Nkuete Special Branch Officer
Car 6	His Excellency Monsieur Babale His Excellency Monsieur Nomo Ongolo Wing Commander Higson
Car 7	Madame Eteki Madame Mataga Madame Babale Cameroon Security Officer
Car 8	Madame Onambele Mrs Glaze
Car 9	4 Cameroon Security Officers
Car 10	3 Domestic Staff Protocol Officer

Hotel to Palace of Holyrood House and return to hotel

Car 3	Madame Biya Madame Oyono The Hon Diana Makgill Cameroon Security Officer

APRAAW

Car 7	Madame Eteki Madame Mataga Madame Babale Cameroon Security Officer
Car 8	Madame Onambele Mrs Glaze

Hotel to Edinburgh Castle and return to hotel

As for plan for journey from Heathrow Airport, excluding Car 10.

FRIDAY 17 MAY

Hotel to Edinburgh Airport

As for plan for journey from Heathrow Airport.

APRAAW

ANNEX II

GUARD OF HONOUR - Procedure

1. A Guard of Honour found by 1st Battalion Grenadier Guards under the command of Major Richard Aubrey-Fletcher with the Regimental Colour, the Band of the Welsh Guards and the Corps of Drums of the Battalion will be formed in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office Quadrangle on Tuesday 14 May at 1115 hours to greet His Excellency President Biya of the Republic of Cameroon. Embassy staff and other spectators are requested to arrive not later than 1050 hours.

2. At 1105 hours Mr M Rifkind, Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, will arrive in the Quadrangle; he will be met to the left of the dais by Major General James Eyre, General Officer Commanding London District, who will be accompanied by Lieutenant Colonel E B L Armitstead, Brigade Major, Household Division. At 1107 hours the members of the Official Suite will arrive at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office Quadrangle by car via King Charles Street. They will alight from their cars just beyond the dais (ie to the east of the latter) where they will be received by Mr Rifkind. They will remain on the east side of the Main Archway (see diagram attached). The cars will proceed to the east of the King Charles Street Archway and await the arrival of the President. As soon as these cars have entered the Quadrangle the cars of the Official Suite should proceed to park in the south west corner of the Quadrangle.

3. At 1112 hours the Prime Minister will arrive at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office Quadrangle through the main Archway; she will be met at the Archway by Major General James Eyre. The Major General will then escort the Prime Minister to the right (west) of the dais where she will receive the President.

4. At 1115 hours the President and Madame Biya will arrive at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office via King Charles Street.

5. The Prime Minister will welcome them and present Major General Eyre, who will escort the President to his place on the dais. The Prime Minister and Madame Biya will then take up a position on his right and behind the dais. The Captain of the Guard of Honour will order "Guard of Honour, Royal Salute, Present Arms" and the Band will play the Cameroon National Anthem. After the Captain of the Guard of Honour has ordered "Shoulder Arms" and "Order Arms", he will present his Guard of Honour to the President, and the Major General will accompany the President and the Guard Commander on the inspection. The President's A.D.C. will follow them.

VALAAM

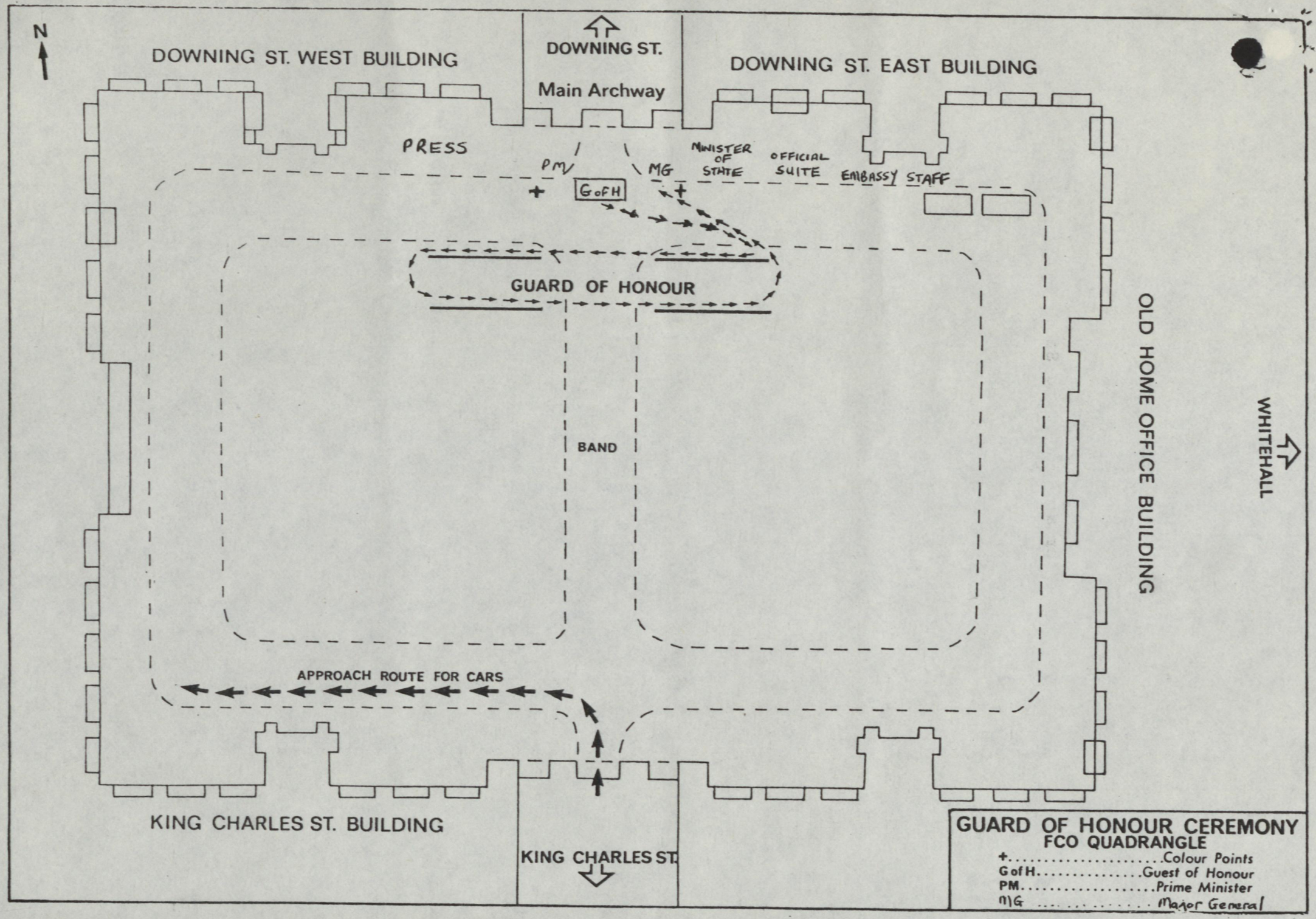
6. The Prime Minister should remain in the vicinity of the dais with the Brigade Major until the inspection is completed and the Major General has accompanied the President back to the dais. The President will introduce his Ministers to the Prime Minister. The Prime Minister will then escort the President and Madame Biya to 10 Downing Street. Those accompanying the President for the courtesy call on the Prime Minister at 10 Downing Street will follow.

7. Meanwhile, the Major General and the Brigade Major will have taken their leave of the President and will authorise the dispersal of the Guard of Honour once the President has departed for 10 Downing Street.

Wet Weather Programme

8. In the event of wet weather the Parade will not be cancelled. The programme will continue as scheduled up to the point where the inspection of the Guard of Honour should begin. If there is heavy rain at that point in the programme, and the President does not wish to inspect the Guard of Honour, the Prime Minister should lead the President to 10 Downing Street.

VALAAM


N
DOWNING ST. WEST BUILDING
DOWNING ST.
Main Archway
DOWNING ST. EAST BUILDING
PRESS
PM
MG
MINISTER OF STATE
OFFICIAL SUITE
EMBASSY STAFF
GofH
GUARD OF HONOUR
BAND
APPROACH ROUTE FOR CARS
OLD HOME OFFICE BUILDING
WHITEHALL
KING CHARLES ST. BUILDING
KING CHARLES ST.
GUARD OF HONOUR CEREMONY
FCO QUADRANGLE
+.....Colour Points
GofH.....Guest of Honour
PM.....Prime Minister
MG.....Major General

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PS/Mr Rifkind (2)
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Mr Fergusson (1)
Mr Johnson (1)
Mr Daly (1)
WAD - Mr McKenzie (10)
News Department (3)
Protocol Department (12)
Resident Clerk (1)
Miss R Hazell (1)
Mr Glaze, c/o Heads of Mission Section (1)
Government Hospitality Fund (30)

APRAAW

File SRU

PRIME MINISTER

VISIT OF PRESIDENT OF CAMEROON

You have a welcoming ceremony for him in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office courtyard at 11.15 on Tuesday. Immediately after he is due to pay a courtesy call on you in Number 10. Only five minutes has been allowed for this: his next engagement is at 11.45.

This is a bit awkward. If you take the President and his copious suite upstairs for coffee, it will certainly take a lot longer than five minutes. This may be inevitable.

The alternative might be to ask Mr Taylor to serve champagne either in the lobby outside the Cabinet Room (with the Cabinet Room open for inspection) or upstairs. This would make for a cheerful welcome. Since they would all be standing up, it would be brief.

Agree to serve champagne either:

- outside the Cabinet Room?
- in the Blue Drawing Room?

C D POWELL

11 May 1985

Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

10 May, 1985

Dear Charles,

Prime Minister's Lunch for President Biya: 15 May

I enclose, as requested, a draft speech for the Prime Minister's lunch with President Biya. As you will see it does not include the formal toasts. May I leave it to you to insert them at the beginning or end of the speech as appropriate.

Yours ever,

Colin Budd

(C R Budd)
Private Secretary

C D Powell Esq
10 Downing Street

SP1ACG

Please type on speed paper.

DRAFT SPEECH: PRIME MINISTER'S LUNCH FOR PRESIDENT BIYA, 15 MAY

Mr President, Madame Biya, Your Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen.

Let me start, Mr President by saying how very pleased we are that you accepted our invitation to visit Britain, make it an official visit to Britain & to extend to you a very warm welcome.

~~Welcome to Britain, Mr President. And welcome Mme Biya. For We take it as a compliment that you have decided to accompany your husband and to come and see us.~~ We are very family-minded in Britain and perhaps you have discovered, as I have, that overseas visits where husband and wife can travel together are very often the most successful.

insert new last page

We welcome you, Mr President, as the representative of a people ~~with~~ whom Britain has ~~had close relations~~ known well for a very long time, going back to the days when our Royal Navy ships came to your waters to suppress the slave trade. And after a period in which our missionaries and our traders were active we came to administer what are now your north-west and south-west provinces, as a result of which one-fifth of your people traditionally speak English. And now ~~as a result of~~ with your policy of bilingualism, ~~which you consider an essential unifying factor in your country~~ which you have been explaining to me, the other four-fifths of your people are learning English, too, ~~and~~ This we welcome and will assist you with as far as we are able. I know ~~what~~ that a good example you yourself have set, Mr President, and ~~how well received have been~~ that your recent speeches in English in the town of Bamenda have been very well received. ~~So may I welcome you as one of our English-speaking family.~~

May I say how very much we welcome your particular demonstration of your friendship & fair-mindedness, and that ~~your~~ your country's decision to abstain at the United Nations on the question of the Falklands. The principle of self-determination ~~for a country to choose their future~~ the people to choose their future is one which both Britain & Cameroon have reason to cherish.

/We

AK2AAM

We welcome you, too, as President of a stable and prosperous nation whose considerable natural resources are being carefully used to promote ~~the~~ development and ~~essential to provide~~ a better standard of living for all your people, without ~~waste and without incurring~~ taking on ~~excessive~~ foreign ~~indebtedness~~ too many. ~~We welcome you, therefore, as an economic partner who has the firm support of his own people, who~~ Cameroon has won the respect of the international economic community, and ~~who~~ has a good credit rating in the market-place.

We welcome you, too, as a leader seeking to diversify and to develop contacts with the Western nations, with Britain in the forefront. ~~I know that~~ After your independence Britain seemed to withdraw from centre stage and ~~to~~ take a place in the wings. ~~But because of the encouragement we have had from your government, and because of our own determination not to lose touch with old friends, things are changing and the British are coming back. This is the message which has been heard in Cameroon for some time now.~~ This is the message which our Minister of Trade, Paul Channon, took to Yaoundé and to Bamenda a few months ago. ~~Since his visit the truth of this message has been borne out by~~ We were delighted to see a concrete result from this visit with the award of the Baffoussam airport contract to a British firm. ~~This is the message I want~~ you to take back to Cameroon; the British are coming back. I will do all I can to make this possible and I know you will do the same for I think the message you gave me in our talks this morning was - I want to see the British back. I thank you for that message which will ~~not go unheeded here.~~

Now we want to come back onto the stage & are grateful for the encouragement which you have given us.

We want to play a bigger part in your economic development, ~~in ways which~~ and we have a great deal to offer.

/Mr President

AK2AAM

We want you to

~~Mr President, Madame Biya. I hope you enjoy your time in Britain. We welcome you as friends and I hope we may treat you as friends in the relaxed and informal way we like to treat friends. You already know our country well - although I have the feeling that you know Scotland rather better than you know England; something connected with golf, a game which is a powerful force for international goodwill, or so my husband keeps telling me. Perhaps I had better take it up myself.~~

a game called golf, I believe.

Mr. President ~~this is a~~ your visit is a very important step in relations between Britain & Cameroon. We ~~hope that~~ want it to be a success: indeed I believe that we can both say, on the basis of our talks today ~~that~~ & this friendly lunch, that it is a success for both our countries - ~~the hope that it will be followed by steady~~ ~~increase~~ a success which we reflected in practical terms by increased ~~contract~~ contacts, increased trade, the wider use of the English language & more active working together between our two governments. I ask you to drink a toast to the friendship of our two peoples.

AK2AAM

President of the Republic of Cameroon & to ~~friend~~

CONFIDENTIAL

Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

10 May, 1985

Dear Charles,

Prime Minister's Meeting with President Biya on 15 May at 12 Noon

Mr Rifkind (in the absence of the Foreign Secretary in Vienna) proposes to bring with him to the talks Mr Ewen Fergusson and our Ambassador in Cameroon, Mr James Glaze. Unless you indicate otherwise, President Biya will be accompanied by his Foreign Minister, M. William Eteki Mboumoua, the Cameroon Ambassador in London, M Leopold Oyono, and his official interpreter.

We have told the Cameroonians that the Prime Minister may wish to have a tete-a-tete with President Biya before the plenary session.

Our main objectives in inviting President Biya are:

(a) to increase the British share of Cameroon's valuable import market; and

(b) to encourage the President's moderate domestic and African policies.

The Cameroonians have intimated to our Ambassador that President Biya may wish:

(a) to outline developments in Cameroon since the April coup attempt;

(b) to explain why he is seeking closer relations with Britain. He may also wish to explore:

(i) some form of association with the Commonwealth;

(ii) the setting up of a joint commission (to cover mainly economic relations);

(iii) help from the BBC in teaching English by television, to promote bilingualism;

(iv) closer links between Cameroon's National Assembly and our Parliament

/Tete-a-Tete

Tete-a-Tete

If the Prime Minister decides in favour of a tete-a-tete, she may like to begin by expressing her support for President Biya's determination to introduce a much greater measure of democracy into Cameroon's political system. She might also mention that she has had positive and encouraging reports from two of her Ministers (Mr Channon and Mrs Chalker) on their recent successful visits to Cameroon. And she might thank President Biya for Cameroon's abstention in 1984 on the Falkland's resolution at the UN.

Plenary Session

No formal agenda has been arranged. The Prime Minister might wish to suggest the order in which the meeting should take the subjects for discussion (bilateral issues; trade; aid; African issues).

She might first touch briefly on our bilateral relations (Brief No 1) which have never been better. There are no contentious issues. She might then turn to the substance of the talks, from our point of view, namely our desire to develop further our trade relations (Brief No 2) and our hope that more progress will soon be achieved in committing our £40m aid and commercial credit package (Brief No 3). She may also care to point out that our procedures for aid disbursement require that projects are 'developmental' in character.

The Prime Minister could invite the President, if time permits, to give his views on African affairs, particularly Namibia and Southern Africa generally (Brief No 4).

I enclose briefing for the Prime Minister on all these topics, together with a very short defensive brief (Brief No 5) on a recent Cameroon initiative at the UN on disarmament.

I also enclose (four sets);

(a) a copy of the final programme for the visit;

(b) the steering brief and general background produced for FCO use in connection with this visit;

(c) personality notes; and

(d) a draft checklist of points

Yours ever,

Colin Budd

C D Powell Esq
10 Downing Street

(C R Budd)
Private Secretary

PRIME MINISTER'S MEETING WITH PRESIDENT BIYA OF CAMEROON ON WEDNESDAY, 15 MAY, AT 12 NOON

CHECKLIST OF POINTS

1. Personal
   (a) Biya visited UK privately when Prime Minister
   (b) Keen golfer (though no time to play since becoming President).

2. Bilateral Relations/Political
   (a) No contentious bilateral issues. Historical links.
   (b) National unity: bilingualism important.
   (c) Greater democracy in Biya's 'New Deal'.
   (d) President may propose ways of adding substance to bilateral relations.

3. Trade
   (a) Keen to see increased trade and investment. Recent ministerial visits.
   (b) UK suppliers willing and able to compete.
   (c) Defence sales. Signature of Memorandum of Understanding. UK technical assistance and training.
   (d) ECGD cover available.

4. Aid
   (a) ATP already on offer: need to go firm on projects.
   (b) Uneconomic, over-designed projects unacceptable.
   (c) Welcome growing technical cooperation.

5. Africa (President to lead)
   (a) South Africa: need to encourage current process of reform.
   (b) Namibia: urge Biya to have confidence in US-led negotiations.
   (c) Western Sahara: OAU solution? UK neutral.
   (d) Libya: little scope for UK pressure.

VISIT OF THE PRESIDENT OF CAMEROON: 13-17 MAY

STEERING BRIEF

1. President Paul Biya of Cameroon has accepted at short notice an invitation to visit Britain as a Guest of Government. His predecessor President Ahidjo paid official visits to the UK in 1963 and April 1982.

2. Our relations with Cameroon have become closer since President Biya came to power. The President was particularly pleased by the Prime Minister's early message of goodwill following the attempted coup d'etat in April 1984 and with the BBC External Service's coverage, which contrasted favourably with that of the French media, of the event. Trade plays an important part in our relationship and to assist our penetration of the Cameroon market an aid/trade agreement (£10m aid/ £30m credit) was signed in December 1983. The first project under this package has just been agreed. This is a potentially valuable market for UK exporters. Cameroon's imports in 1984 were valued at £1.2 bn, and unlike most other African countries, Cameroon can afford to (and does) pay for what it wants. Recently both Mr Paul Channon (Feb '85) and Mrs Lynda Chalker (Sept '84) have made successful visits to Cameroon. The Ministry of Defence believe that the country has the potential to be our single most important defence sales market in Black Africa (after Nigeria). The Cameroon Minister for the Armed Forces visited the UK in November 1984.

3. Cameroon's foreign policy is one of moderation both in international and African matters. It abstained in the 1984 Falkland's debate in the UN. There are a number of unresolved problems with neighbouring countries

/including

including a border dispute with Nigeria which erupted into small-scale fighting in 1981. President Biya is anxious to reduce his country's excessive dependence on France by diversifying his links with other Western countries. Ex-President Ahidjo's continued residence in France and his suspected inspiration of the 1984 coup attempt, during which France seemingly sat on the fence, led to a serious strain in relations with France. Active French diplomacy (Biya paid an official visit to Paris in March) has done much to ease the resultant stain but nothing has been forgotten or completely forgiven. There are no contentious bilateral issues in our own relations with Cameroon.

4. UK OBJECTIVES

Our principle objectives in inviting Biya are:

a) to secure a greater share of Cameroon's valuable import market;

b) to encourage the President's moderate pro-Western policies;

c) to promote better understanding of British policies particularly towards Southern Africa;

d) to foster Biya's desire to promote bilingualism in the interests of national unity and to loosen Cameroon's close ties with France.

5. CAMEROON OBJECTIVES

President Biya made it clear in March that he would welcome an early official visit to the UK and with the unavailability of a higher-priority candidate we were able to accommodate his wishes without it being too obvious, if at all, that he was a late substitute in the

/official

official visits' programme. Biya's main objectives for the visit are to demonstrate:

a) to his domestic and especially anglophone public opinion that an important Western country, other than France, considers that the events of 1984 are behind him and is signalling that it considers his position as President to be secure;

b) both domestically and internationally that Cameroon is not a "chasse gardée" for the French and that Cameroon intends to develop its ties with other countries, particularly the UK.

6. Against this background President Biya may also raise the possibility during his talks with the Prime Minister, and/or other Ministers, of:

i) setting up joint commissions, eg on economic cooperation;

ii) the UK providing technical and other assistance for Cameroon's new TV service;

iii) some form of association with the Commonwealth.

BRIEFS

7. Briefs on these various subjects have been prepared for the Prime Minister's discussions with President Biya. These will represent the only opportunity for substantive discussion across the whole range of bilateral and mutlilateral questions. A number of UK Ministers (para 8 below) are scheduled to call on the President at his hotel, but because of his own visit to Vienna, the Secretary of State will be able to pay only a brief courtesy call, for which separate briefing will be provided, on the President on 14 May.

/8. THE

8. THE PRESIDENT'S PROGRAMME

The official programme is not heavy. It includes luncheon with Her Majesty The Queen at Buckingham Palace, visits to Westminster Abbey, the Tower of London and to Scotland (including the Royal and Ancient Golf Club at St Andrews - the President is a keen golfer). The President is receiving privately OAU Ambassadors and hosting a reception for Cameroonians resident in the UK. Mr Heseltine, Mr Tebbit, Mr Channon, Mr Buchanan-Smith and Mrs Chalker will be making courtesy calls on the President. The Secretary of State for Scotland will host a dinner in Edinburgh on the evening before the visit ends.

WEST AFRICAN DEPARTMENT
May 1985

PRIME MINISTER'S MEETING WITH PRESIDENT BIYA OF CAMEROON ON 15 MAY AT 12 NOON

1. BILATERAL ISSUES

OUR OBJECTIVES

a) To respond to Cameroon's expressed desire to reduce her dependence on France and to encourage the further strengthening of our relations with Cameroon.

ARGUMENT

a) This visit is a demonstration of the friendly relations we have with Cameroon. Hope it will mark the beginning of even closer ties. Historical links should not be forgotten. Exchange of ministerial visits. Increased trade prospects.

PRESIDENT BIYA'S OBJECTIVES

The President may suggest:

a) that the UK needs to undertake "highly visible" projects in Cameroon;

b) the development of some link between Cameroon and the Commonwealth;

c) the setting up of joint Commissions, for example, or economic cooperation;

d) the forging of links between our two Parliaments;

e) that newly inaugurated Cameroon television is given some assistance. He sees TV as a powerful tool in the teaching of English;

e) in addition, the President will almost certainly express his appreciation at the closer links that are forming between our two countries.

YOUR RESPONSE

a) agree generally but suggest discuss further when come on to trade and aid;

/b) Commonwealth

b) Commonwealth. The Commonwealth is flexible. Suggest his officials approach the Commonwealth Secretariat's International Affairs Division in first instance;

c) Joint Commissions. Discuss when come on to trade. Britain is not so used to the idea of joint commissions as some other countries are, eg France. However, if President believes it would help the handling of bilateral matters, we would certainly be prepared to consider any proposals he might put forward;

d) Parliamentary links. If President can say exactly how he envisages links between members of our Parliaments forming, we will consider how these can best be pursued.

e) Television. British Embassy in Yaoundé is aware of Cameroon TV's needs and is exploring ways in which the BBC can offer some technical assistance.

BACKGROUND

1. Cameroon is worth cultivating, both to encourage her Government's pro-Western attitudes and to try to increase the UK share of her import market which in total is worth some £1.2 billion per annum.

2. The Cameroon Ministry of Foreign Affairs would like to see the development of some link with the Commonwealth. They may conceivably have suggested that the President apply for Commonwealth membership. However, it is unlikely that he would seek more than a loose link. Either way, it is not for HMG to speak definitively on behalf of the Commonwealth on this subject and it should be referred to the Commonwealth Secretariat.

/3.

3. The Cameroonians like to have Joint Commissions (JCs) with other countries. They say this expedites the handling of bilateral matters, particularly economic and commercial matters, as senior officials and Ministers are obliged to get together periodically to make a formal review of what is happening, and decisions taken at these meetings spur Government departments into action, as does the thought that questions are going to be asked at a high level and in a formal manner. We are not convinced that JCs will do all this, but if the President is really keen that we should enter into a JC, we should be prepared to be flexible in our response to him.

4. We believe both the President and the Anglophone President of the National Assembly would welcome some form of link between the Parliaments of Britain and Cameroon. As a first step it may be appropriate for them to send a small Parliamentary delegation to London.

5. The President is wholeheartedly committed to bilingualism. He is taking a personal interest in the teaching of English and sees television as a powerful tool and may therefore ask to what extent we can assist Cameroonian television which has just started its first experimental broadcasts. We are offering the BBC TV series "Follow Me". The ODA's Education Adviser hopes to visit Cameroon in June to discuss how this might be used most effectively.

WEST AFRICAN DEPARTMENT
May 1985

PRIME MINISTER'S MEETING WITH PRESIDENT BIYA OF CAMEROON ON 15 MAY AT 12 NOON

2. TRADE

OUR OBJECTIVES

a) To increase our share of Cameroon's market.

b) To learn how Cameroon is investing its limited oil reserves to promote industrial development.

c) To learn how Britain can contribute towards Cameroon's economic growth.

d) To encourage Cameroon to buy British defence equipment and to secure signature of Memorandum of Understanding on defence sales.

ARGUMENTS

a) British equipment available to meet Cameroon's needs.

b) British companies ready to compete for contracts.

c) UK suppliers very experienced overseas.

d) Broad range of HMG support available for sales of defence equipment.

e) British defence equipment of highest quality, proven through operational experience.

f) UK ready to sign MOU which will cover technical and training assistance and favourable credit terms for defence equipment.
(Negotiating text sent to Cameroon in April.)

g) ECGD cover available for most forms of business.

PRESIDENT BIYA'S OBJECTIVES

To secure:

a) Favourable credit arrangements.

b) Some aid element in a developing defence relationship with the UK, in addition to favourable credit arrangements.

c) British investment in Cameroon.

/YOUR

YOUR RESPONSE

a) Our aid and trade package (£10m aid and £30m ECGD credit) signed in December 1983 is intended to provide favourable credit terms for projects of developmental value.

b) For defence equipment our draft MOU envisages UK technical assistance and training to help reduce the cost. Attractive financial terms are proposed in the draft MOU.

c) Precise figures are not available for UK investment in Cameroon, but it is growing, eg the Commonwealth Development Corporation's involvement in large rubber plantations in the country (£32m investment). And some 25 British firms have opened offices in Cameroon. HMG would like to see more.

BACKGROUND

1. Cameroon's trade account has been in surplus since 1976. The EC is the main trading area accounting for 64% of Cameroon's imports and exports in 1983. Cameroon is the fourth largest market in sub-Saharan Africa for OECD countries, with France having the lion's share of business. British companies are aware of this market which imports goods worth about £1.2 billion per annum and are trying hard to penetrate it and increase the UK market share (currently around 2%). Recently Mrs Lynda Chalker and Mr Paul Channon have made separate visits to Cameroon (in September 1984 and February 1985 respectively) to promote British commercial interests.

2. Military sales. Cameroon's defence ties with France weakening: some recent disenchantment with French

/approach

approach to equipment sales and some political differences. M. Tsoungui, Minister for the Armed Forces, visited the UK in November 1984, had talks with Mr Heseltine and other MOD Ministers and saw a wide range of defence equipment. During this visit the idea of a Defence Procurement MOU was raised. A negotiating text was sent on 10 April. It includes proposals for ECGD supported credit considered generous enough to encourage Cameroon to place orders in the UK. Signature possible this summer. Proposals from British suppliers in response to Cameroon enquiries include Fast Patrol Craft, light armoured vehicles, Land Rovers, naval and air-defence radars, and airfield defence weapons. Contract negotations are expected to begin after signature of the MOU. Sales prospects for the next two or three years £100-150m.

WEST AFRICAN DEPARTMENT
May 1985

PRIME MINISTER'S MEETING WITH PRESIDENT BIYA OF CAMEROON ON 15 MAY AT 12 NOON

3. AID

OUR OBJECTIVES

a) To get Cameroon to go firm on some of the Aid and Trade Provision Projects already on offer (list at Annex A);

b) To fend off requests for uneconomic or over-designed projects.

ARGUMENTS

a) Firm offers made for four projects worth £22m against our £40m ATP credit line, but none of these yet clinched. Can President help?

b) Welcome growing technical cooperation (50 training awards plus help to education and agriculture): hope this can strengthen UK/Cameroon links.

TACTICAL ARGUMENTS

a) Understand that Cameroon wishes to develop trade and cooperation with other Western countries so as to avoid excessive dependence on any particular country.

PRESIDENT BIYA'S OBJECTIVES

a) Use of Aid and Trade Provision for prestige projects which may not prove viable.

b) To ask for UK help with bilingualism in Cameroon.

YOUR RESPONSE

a) Will consider any other proposals - several under study. But must avoid projects that will cause maintenance problems, or which might even impoverish Cameroon leading to subsequent debt payment difficulties: risk of public criticism in Britain.

b) Through the British Council, who have an office in

/Yaoundé

Yaoundé, we assist in the promotion of the English language. Hope the British Council effort is already helping bilingualism.

BACKGROUND

1. Financial Aid. £40m line of mixed credit (£10m aid and £30m credit) supported by the Export Credit Guarantee Department (ECGD) was offered in December 1983, but so far only one small feasibility study has been firmly agreed.

2. President Biya wants a 300-bed hospital built quickly at Maroua. The scale proposed is extravagant. We could consider supporting a less fancy 300-bed hospital, perhaps 25% cheaper, and British consultants could see that the work was done quickly. Consultants' proposals for other hospitals at Bafia and Monatele also awaited.

3. We have turned down several uneconomic projects (some sponsored more ardently by British firms than by Cameroon) including a proposed drydock for Douala and ground stations for a satellite telecommunications system.

4. Technical Cooperation. As well as training, we are offering the BBC English Language Teaching series "Follow Me" for the newly established Cameroon TV network service. ODA's Education Adviser hopes to visit Cameroon in June and discuss how this might be used most effectively.

5. We hope an ODA agricultural adviser will join a World Bank Mission to Cameroon in June to investigate the possibility of Britain cofinancing a project to support agricultural research.

/6. Under

6. Under the Key English Language Teaching (KELT) scheme, there are four KELT Advisers working in both the Anglophone and Francophone regions of Cameroon. Two are working on the preparation of teachers manuals and two are at the University of Yaoundé. (A proposal for a secondary textbook project for the Francophone provinces is not being proceeded with as the cost to the Cameroon Government is too high.) A fifth British Council Adviser, graded Category IV, is employed in Buea to advise on the teaching of Physics, and a Maths teaching adviser has been appointed at Bamenda and will take up his post in August.

WEST AFRICAN DEPARTMENT
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ANNEX A

CAMEROON ATP OFFERS

A number of projects seemed worthy of support and firm outstanding offers made to the Cameroon Government under the aid and trade provision include:

		£m (Aid and Commercial Credit)
i.	21 June 1983 Four Towns Water Supply	5.6
ii.	26 July 1983 Agricultural Mechanisation	2.0
iii.	27 July 1983 Douala Water Supply	6.4
iv.	18 June 1984 North West Electrification	8.0
		22.0

The dates on which these offers were made show the long delays on the part of the Cameroonians in responding. We are doing what we can to encourage progress. Teams visit Cameroon regularly both to identify projects and to press for action on those for which offers have been made.

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PRIME MINISTER'S MEETING WITH PRESIDENT BIYA OF CAMEROON ON 15 MAY AT 12 NOON

4. AFRICAN ISSUES

i) South Africa

ii) Namibia

iii) Western Sahara

iv) Libya

PRIME MINISTER'S MEETING WITH PRESIDENT BIYA OF CAMEROON ON 15 MAY AT 12 NOON

i) **SOUTH AFRICA**

OUR OBJECTIVE

To explain our view of developments, and our response to them.

ARGUMENTS TO USE

a) Concern at continuing violence. Abhorrence of apartheid. Condemned tragic events at Uitenhage.

b) Violence unfortunately overshadows recent positive developments.

c) Reforms so far inadequate. Urge SAG to go further.

PRESIDENT BIYA'S OBJECTIVE

Possibly to urge more pressure on South African Government.

YOUR RESPONSE

a) Opposition to sanctions.

b) Continued engagement offers best prospect of influencing SAG.

BACKGROUND

1. Cameroon takes low profile on South Africa, but publicly follows standard line (supporting sanctions).

PRIME MINISTER'S MEETING WITH PRESIDENT BIYA OF CAMEROON ON 15 MAY AT 12 NOON

ii) **NAMIBIA**

OUR OBJECTIVE

To urge support for US-led negotiations. To explain our attitude to new internal arrangements.

ARGUMENTS

a) US-led negotiations offer the only realistic chance of progress (no viable alternatives).

b) Keep South Africans locked into the search for an internationally-recognised settlement.

c) Angolans recognise importance of search for regional settlement dealing with Cubans and Namibia.

d) Have condemned new internal arrangements. Cannot alter SAG's responsibility to bring Namibia to independence.

PRESIDENT BIYA'S OBJECTIVES

a) Immediate implementation of SCR 435 since linkage unjustified.

b) South Africans wish to avoid UN Plan and should be coerced, preferably through sanctions.

YOUR RESPONSE

a) Do not accept linkage. Cannot ignore political reality that Cuban problem must be resolved as prior step to implementation of SCR 435. Cuban presence introduced East/West tensions. We support their withdrawal.

/b) Agreement

b) Agreement on Cubans would bring a Namibia settlement. Full confidence in US good faith.

BACKGROUND

1. Cameroon is a member of the UN Council for Namibia which is recognised by the UN General Assembly (but not by us) as the legal administering body for Namibia.

US-led Negotiations

2. In meetings in Cape Verde (18-19 March) and South Africa (21 March), Assistant Secretary of State Dr Crocker put to both sides an informal "synthesis" proposal on Cuban withdrawal. Designed to narrow the gap between the Angolan and the South African proposals. No formal reactions yet.

Completion of Disengagement

3. On 18 April South African Defence Forces completed their withdrawal from Angola, fulfilling the agreement reached in Lusaka in February 1984.

Namibia Internal

4. On 18 April South Africans announced qualified SAG acceptance of proposals by the Multi-Party Conference (MPC), a grouping of some Namibian political parties (but with minimal black support), to set up an interim internal administration in Namibia. South Africa will retain control of defence and foreign affairs and will continue to negotiate towards internationally-recognised independence on the basis of the UN Plan. Contact Group countries have made clear they will not recognise the new administration.

PRIME MINISTER'S MEETING WITH PRESIDENT BIYA OF CAMEROON ON 15 MAY AT 12 NOON

iii) **WESTERN SAHARA**

OUR OBJECTIVE

a) To explain UK strictly neutral. Believe parties should reach a solution in a regional context, support OAU's call for a referendum.

b) Seek Cameroon views on the dispute. Is there a way out of the impasse?

ARGUMENTS

a) HMG's policy is one of neutrality. We do not accept either Moroccan or Polisario claims to the disputed territory, and we recognise neither the Polisario nor the self-declared "Sahara Arab Democratic Republic".

PRESIDENT BIYA'S OBJECTIVES

a) To stand back, and let Maghreb nations find a solution.

YOUR RESPONSE

a) Agree, parties involved should try to reach a solution.

BACKGROUND

1. The Algerian-backed Polisario has been waging a guerrilla war against Moroccan forces since Spain withdrew from the territory in 1975. The self-proclaimed Saharan Arab Democratic Republic (SADR) is now

/recognised

recognised by 61 states. The OAU has made several attempts to resolve the long running conflict. The 1983 OAU summit adopted by consensus a resolution calling for a ceasefire and a referendum by 31 December 1983 and also urging direct talks between Morocco and the Polisario. The UN General Assembly in December 1983 adopted a consensus resolution lending support to the earlier OAU resolution. Morocco's repeated refusal to negotiate directly with the Polisario for fear of prejudging the outcome of a referendum has effectively blocked any progress towards a solution. Morocco suffered further setbacks at the OAU and UNGA in 1984. The seating of the SADR at the OAU summit of 1984 was a success for Algerian diplomacy but led to the walk-out of Morocco from the organisation and may thus prove pyrrhic. Morocco has pressed home its advantage in the battlefield by the construction of defensive barriers part of which now runs close to the Algerian border. Despite occasional escalation of the fighting neither Morocco nor Algeria appears likely to risk direct confrontation over the dispute. It is difficult to see a way out of the impasse, which is a grave obstacle to progress in regional cooperation. Tunisian efforts to convene a Maghreb summit in March foundered upon Algerian insistence on SADR presence and Morocco's intransigence over holding direct negotiations with the Polisario. Recent reports suggest that Algeria is likely to lobby for the admission of SADR to the non-Aligned Movement. There are also indications - postponement of the proposed Arab League/OAU Foreign Ministers' Conference in Tripoli - that Morocco has started to mount its own diplomatic offensive.

PRIME MINISTER'S MEETING WITH PRESIDENT BIYA OF CAMEROON ON 15 MAY AT 12 NOON

iv) **LIBYA**

OUR OBJECTIVES

a) Qadhafi's continuing, expensive military commitment in Chad probably precludes other military adventures elsewhere but not his attempts to influence and subvert. Latest area of Libyan attention is West Africa (Gambia, Senegal, Benin, Ghana, Burkina).

b) Cameroonian views on Libyan intentions in Africa?

ARGUMENTS

a) Qadhafi continues to support subversive and radical nationalistic movements in Africa and other parts of the Third World. Main consideration for incursion in Chad is Libya's perceived need for secure borders.

PRESIDENT BIYA'S OBJECTIVES

a) Biya supports Habré in Chad. May ask for our support.

YOUR RESPONSE

a) No lover of Qadhafi regime. Chad problem has not been helped by French withdrawal last year. But prospects for a negotiated solution seem to lie with OAU. With no diplomatic links with Libya, little influence UK can bring to bear on her.

BACKGROUND

1. Despite reduced oil revenue and the need for economic retrenchment Qadhafi continues to support subversive and radical nationalistic movements in Africa and other parts

/of the

of the Third World. Policy in Africa is dictated by a number of considerations of which the most important is Libya's need for secure borders. Elsewhere, Libya pursues, among more susceptible, poorer sub-Saharan states attempts to create an Islamic Pan-African 'empire' based on Qadhafi's own peculiar economic, political and social theories. Military involvement, which has always been unpopular in Libya, seems to have been set aside as a means of achieving these goals with the notable exception, and perhaps only as a result of, Libya's current preoccupation with her continuing substantial involvement in Chad.

2. In Africa, as elsewhere, the Libyans are distrusted: their record of success has been indifferent. They are fickle friends and delivery invariably falls short of promises made. Libya's admission of responsibility for the "assassination" in Cairo last November of a prominent Libyan exile and her failure to keep her side of the bargain with France over the agreed mutual, total withdrawal of troops from Chad will have done nothing to enhance her reputation for meddling and untrustworthiness. In December 1984 The Gambia reestablished diplomatic relations with Libya on a non-resident basis, although an unofficial Libyan presence seems inevitable. The Gambia's confederal partner, neighbouring Senegal, was much more cautious and has not followed suit. An "informal" quadrapartite meeting in Ouagadougou in January between Burkina Faso, Benin, Ghana and Libya, designed to promote "cooperation" in all fields, reportedly ended in failure following Libya's unwillingness to provide economic assistance to the others.

/3. The

3. The Soviet Union, which has had her own economic problems with Libya over delayed payments for arms supplies, continues to be mistrustful of Qadhafi and seems content to profit where she can from Libya's foreign policy without seeking or being able to direct it.

PRIME MINISTER'S MEETING WITH PRESIDENT BIYA OF CAMEROON ON 15 MAY AT 12 NOON

5. ROLE OF THE UNITED NATIONS IN THE FIELD OF DISARMAMENT

POINTS TO MAKE (If Raised)

Welcome your initiative to table paper at United Nations Disarmament Commission (UNDC). Actively studying it. Contains useful proposals.

ESSENTIAL FACTS

Review of role of United Nations in disarmament field on agenda of UNDC (New York 6-31 May). Cameroon, at President's instigation has just circulated paper, which is currently being studied. With a view to increasing the UN's effectiveness, the paper advocates fairly radical rationalisation of its activities in the disarmament field.

VISIT OF PRESIDENT BIYA OF THE REPUBLIC OF CAMEROON

13-17 MAY 1985

CAMEROON: GENERAL BACKGROUND

HISTORY

1. Approximately twice the size of the United Kingdom, the Republic of Cameroon was first discovered by Europeans (Portuguese) in 1472. During the following three hundred years the Portuguese and other European (English, French, German and Spanish) traders and slavers operated along the Cameroon coast. Although the British were predominant during the 1800s, and were running an anti-slavery squadron in the Bight of Biafra as early as the 1820s, it was Germany who first established a Protectorate on Cameroon soil in 1884. This lasted until 1916 when British and French troops drove the Germans from the coast and created a de facto partition of the territory. Britain and France then created mandates, with the latter administering the majority of the territory. The country remained separated along these lines until the two parts (with the exception of Northern

/Cameroons

Cameroons which joined Nigeria) were brought together to independence in 1961 as the Cameroon Federal Republic. Unifying the Federation, the United Republic of Cameroon was established in 1972.

PRESENT POLITICAL SITUATION

2. President Ahmadou Ahidjo (a Moslem who made official visits to the United Kingdom in 1963 and 1982) ruled the country autocratically from independence until he resigned unexpectedly in 1982. A smooth transition of power to his protegé, the former Prime Minister, Paul Biya (a Christian), followed in accordance with the Constitution. Thereafter, however, a power struggle ensued between Biya and Ahidjo who, by his retention of presidency of the country's sole political party, had hoped to continue to dominate affairs. Ahidjo withdrew to France from where, it was alleged, he plotted in 1983 to assassinate Biya. Two alleged accomplices were arrested and many of his former associates, mainly Moslem, were dismissed from the public service. Biya then called presidential elections which were held in January 1984. Biya was returned unopposed, although he had amended the Constitution to permit other candidates, provided they met rigorous conditions.

/3. In

3. In February 1984 Ahidjo (in absentia) and his two aides were condemned to death but Biya subsequently commuted the sentences to unspecified terms of imprisonment and declared the incident closed.

4. On 6 April 1984 an abortive coup was staged in the capital Yaoundé by elements of the elite Republican Guard, all Northerners and, surprisingly, unchanged from the Ahidjo era. Fighting in Yaounde lasted for two days, but the rest of the country remained calm and the coup attempt was squashed by the Army and Air Force. The ringleaders were subsequently tried and executed.

5. Like Ahidjo, Biya is striving to foster national unity. His declared aim is to move away from tight central direction towards a more liberal and democratic system, but in practice decentralisation shows no signs of working yet. Although the country is relieved that the authoritarian Ahidjo has gone, regional tensions still persist (South versus North and Muslim versus Christian) and it will require a firm but restrained touch to prevent a return to the factionalism and tribal animosities of the 1950s and 1960s and to allay Anglophone dissatisfaction. President Biya has not

/hitherto

hitherto been perceived as a strong, decisive, President. During the last six months however he has started to provide the guiding hand that his country needs.

ECONOMY

5. Cameroon's economy is one of the few in Africa which is not in trouble. Some 70% of the working population are employed in the agricultural sector and the country is self-sufficient in food. Oil, which provides most of the country's foreign exchange, was discovered in the 1970s and by 1983 production was over six million tons, most of which was exported. Exploration is continuing although the coastal area has already been comprehensively surveyed. Cameroon has a small but expanding manufacturing sector, large timber resources, bauxite reserves plus large reserves of low grade iron ore.

6. Prudent management of the economy permitted a steady growth in GDP throughout the 1970s and into the 1980s. The availability of oil for export has transformed Cameroon's economic prospects and will enable the Government to adopt a more expansionist economic policy between now and the end of the century. The Government

/adopts

adopts an "open door policy" to foreign private investment and has maintained its good record in meeting international obligations. There are weaknesses in the management of the para-statal sector of the economy which the Government is trying to remedy. It is expected that foreign investors and consultants will have a significant role in improving efficiency.

UK/CAMEROON RELATIONS

7. Cameroon does not usually seek to take the lead in international fora, African or otherwise. She is cautious and moderate on most issues. She is also well disposed towards Britain and President Biya has shown that he would welcome a closer relationship with us. Always good, relations between the two countries have warmed as Biya has settled into his role as President. The reason for this is that though Cameroon has very strong ties with France, she wishes to diversify and forge better links with other Western countries. Historical connections plus Biya's wish to promote bilingualism in Cameroon, makes Britain the natural country for him to turn to.

8. For our part, we welcome, and have encouraged, a warmer relationship, partly to promote the continuation

/of

of a very pro-Western government in Africa, and partly to promote business for British companies in one of the few solvent states in Africa.

WEST AFRICAN DEPARTMENT

May 1985

VISIT OF PRESIDENT BIYA OF THE REPUBLIC OF CAMEROON

13-17 MAY 1985

B. Personality notes on:

1) Paul Biya
2) Madame Jeanne Irene Biya
3) William Eteki Mboumoua and Madame Yvette Eteki
4) Philippe Mataga and Madame Marie Claude Mataga
5) Jean Nkuete
6) Abdoulaye Babale
7) Edouard Nomo Ongolo
8) Victor Anomah Ngu
9) Ferdinand Leopold Oyono
10) Jean Baptiste Beleoken
11) MJC (James) Glaze

PAUL BIYA

President of Cameroon since November 1982.

Born 1933 in the South. Finished his education in France (Sorbonne) with a law and political science degree and a diploma from the Institut des Hautes Etudes d'Outremer.

Joining the Civil Service in 1962 he rose rapidly to become Secretary-General in the Presidency and Prime Minister in 1975, proving himself a most able administrator.

His predecessor, Ahmadou Ahidjo, resigned suddenly in 1982 and Biya succeeded constitutionally. Being a technocrat rather than a politician he was a surprising choice as Ahidjo's successor. He is also a Catholic whereas Ahidjo was Moslem. Ahidjo subsequently proved reluctant to withdraw from the scene and a power struggle ensued. Biya survived an alleged assassination attempt in 1983 and an attempted coup in April 1984. He is now undisputed master of Cameroon, having been confirmed as President in an unopposed election in January 1984 and as President of the only political party, renamed the Cameroon People's Democratic Movement, in March 1985.

Since becoming President he has shown himself to be astute but also capable of political blunders. After the coup attempt his failure to assert himself and to appear in public caused doubts as to his capacity to take charge in a decisive way. But over the last six months he has come out of his shell, has renewed

/his

his highly successful tours of the country and has imposed his will on the party, bringing new faces and changing its name.

Promising his people greater democracy, liberalisation, freedom of speech and of the press and greater morality in public affairs (principles which gradually are being put into practice) he presents a striking contrast to his predecessor, with a youthful, dynamic and progressive image, which has made him genuinely popular with his people, especially the young. While the northerners may regard him with suspicion, the anglophones generally like him, especially for his expressed enthusiasm for more bilingualism and his readiness to make speeches in English. But they did not like the way he changed the name of the country from "United Republic" to "Republic of Cameroon" as they fear assimilation. No-one doubts his honesty and sincerity though some fear him to be too much dominated by advisers. He has great personal charm.

He has paid official visits to France, in 1983 and February 1985.

He is extremely fond of sport, particularly golf: when Prime Minister he used to go to Gleneagles every year to play (handicap about 14) and he jogged in Hyde Park. He has worked very hard to learn English and understands it reasonably if spoken slowly and clearly but has greater difficulty speaking it. For anything other than simple social chat an interpreter is needed. He married Jeanne Irene Atyam in 1961 and has one son of 13.

The National Archives

DEPARTMENT/SERIES PREM 19 PIECE/ITEM 2033 (one piece/item number)	Date and sign
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likely to stand on her dignity. She is Hon President of the Cameroon Red Cross but does not play an active part and is known to disapprove of the way they spend their funds on administration.

Speaks no English.

MADAME YVETTE ETEKI

Wife of Minister of Foreign Affairs.

Mid 40s. Educated in Cameroon and France, and qualified as a pharmacist.

A businesswoman, she runs her own pharmacy in Yaoundé. Short and stout, she has a strong and lively personality, and dominates her husband. No known interests other than her business.

Married, children. Speaks no English.

WEST AFRICAN DEPARTMENT
May 1985

PHILIPPE MATAGA

Minister and Director of the Civil Cabinet since 1983.

Born 1938 in Edea (Littoral Province). Holds a licence and graduate degree in history. Studied in France at University of Grenoble and Institute of Higher Overseas Studies in Paris.

1965-70	Foreign Service
1970-73	Permanent Representative to the United Nations
1979-80	Deputy Director of International Organisations
1980-83	Secretary General in the Foreign Ministry

Mataga is a practising Roman Catholic. Mataga is urbane, quick-witted and close to President Biya. Speaks and understands very little English.

West African Department
May 1985

CONFIDENTIAL

MADAME MARIE CLAUDE MATAGA

Born April 1946 at Douala. Educated Cameroon. Trained in France as a Beautician (Estheticienne). Married in 1972, has two boys and a girl.

Interests: reading and family.

Speaks no English.

WEST AFRICAN DEPARTMENT
May 1985

JEAN NKUETE

Deputy Secretary General at the Presidency since 1983.

Born in 1944. A Bamileke, passed the Baccalaureat in experimental science. Nkuete has a Doctorate in Economic and Commercial Science from the School of Economic Development in Rome. Also studied at the Catholic University of Milan.

1969-81 Various public service appointments including Director of Economic Affairs for the Service of the Prime Minister and then Technical Counsellor to the Prime Minister.

1981-83 Assistant Director General, Paribas-Cameroon Bank.

Member of the Political Bureau of the Party, Secretary for Ecconomic and Social Affairs to the Central Committee. A teacher at the faculty of Law and Economic Science, Nkuete is the author of several works.

Speaks and understands very little English. He is married and has five children.

West African Department
MAY 1985

ABDOULAYE BABALE

Minister of Housing and Town Planning since 1983.

Born 1946 in Maroua (in the North). After primary and secondary education in Cameroon he obtained a degree in law at Yaoundé and followed this with a post-graduate diploma in law at the Sorbonne in 1973 and another diploma in political science the following year. He rose through the ranks of the Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications (after further study in France) to become Secretary-General in the Ministry of Public Service until his nomination as Minister of Housing and Town Planning in 1983.

A Moslem, Babale is married with five children. Speaks fluent English.

EDOUARD NOMO ONGOLO

Minister of Trade and Industry since February 1984.

Born 15 October 1939 at Douala. Trained as an economist in France.

1969-70	Head of Regional Service for Economic Planning, former West Cameroon
1970-72	Head, West Cameroon Economic Division
1973-76	Head of Cameroon Economic and Trade Mission, Washington DC
1980-84	Director of Industry, Ministry of Economy and Plan. Assistant General Manager, then General Manager of Chase Bank Cameroon.

His appointment reflects the President's desire to balance Cameroon's links with France with a more substantial relationship with the English-speaking world. He and his Ministry are of great importance to the UK.

Married, children. Bilingual.

WEST AFRICAN DEPARTMENT
May 1985

FERDINAND LEOPOLD OYONO

Ambassador to Great Britain since the summer of 1984.

Born 14 September 1929, in the Central South Province.

Oyono holds a degree from the School of Law and Economics of Paris (1958), studied at the National School of Administration in Paris, and received training in diplomacy at the French Embassy in Rome. During his student days he wrote four of his best known novels (which have been translated from the original French into at least seven major languages).

1962-65	Ambassador to Liberia
1965-69	Ambassador to Belgium, the Netherlands, Luxembourg, and the EC
1969-75	Ambassador to France
1975-82	Ambassador to the UN
1983-84	Ambassador to Algeria

He is married to a French woman. They have two children.

Speaks hesitant but good English.

West African Department
May 1985

JEAN BAPTISTE BELEOKEN

Director of Protocol at the Presidency.

Born 1932. Educated locally and studied briefly for the Priesthood. While working in Paris and New York he studied at local universities and has a Masters Degree in Economics and Political Science from St Johns University (Washington). After service in the Ministry of Finance, in the Cameroon Embassy in France as Commercial Attaché, and at the UN, he was, in 1968, appointed Director of Economic and Technical Affairs at the Foreign Ministry.

1969 Appointed Director of Economic Commission for Africa's Sub-Regional Office at Kinshasa. (He has represented Cameroon as an expert in International Economics at many international gatherings.)

1974 Appointed Ambassador to the USSR.

1983 Chief of Protocol at the Presidency.

Politically and educationally he is of right-wing tendencies.

Has three daughters by his first wife whom he divorced in 1964. Remarried in January 1970, a former nun, Anne-Marie. His dignified appearance masks an active but subtle sense of humour. He speaks English reasonably well if he can be persuaded to use it.

WEST AFRICAN DEPARTMENT
May 1985

MR M J C 'JAMES' GLAZE

(HM Ambassador at Yaounde)

Mr Glaze was born at Rochford, Essex, on 15 January 1935 and was educated at Bilton Grange, Dunchurch, Repton School and St Catharine's College, Cambridge (Open Exhibitioner). He graduated in 1958 in Modern and Mediaeval Languages. Between school and University he did National Service from 1953 to 1955, commissioned in the Essex Regiment, and served overseas in British Somaliland with the Somaliland Scouts.

In 1959 he joined HM Overseas Civil Service and, after a Colonial Service Course at Worcester College, Oxford, was assigned to the Basutoland/Lesotho Government Service, remaining until 1970 when he retired as Deputy Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Finance. He then worked for the Commonwealth Development Corporation in London for a brief spell before taking up a permanent appointment with the Department of Trade and Industry (ECGD) as a Principal early in 1971.

In 1973 he transferred to the Diplomatic Service under an Exchange Scheme from the Home Civil Service and was assigned to West African Department in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office. From 1975 to 1978 he served as First Secretary (Commercial) at Abu Dhabi whence he was

/transferred

tranferred to Rabat as First Secretary, Head of Chancery and HM Consul. In August 1980, following promotion to the rank of Counsellor, he became HM Consul-General (head of post) at Bordeaux. He took up his present appointment in July 1984.

In 1965 Mr Glaze married Mrs Rosemary Potter, née Duff, who was born in Edinburgh in 1931. Mrs Glaze has two daughters from her first marriage, born in 1954 and 1961.

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E.R.

PRIME MINISTER

VISIT OF PRESIDENT OF CAMEROON

You may like to glance at the briefs this weekend. You will see him for a very short courtesy call on Tuesday after the Welcoming Ceremony; and an hour before lunch on Wednesday.

But with interpretation, this reduces the actual time to something like half-an-hour of discussion. I do not think that you need go too deeply into the detail of the briefs (I suggest only the bits I have underlined).

The essential points are that Cameroon is a relatively wealthy, fairly democratic and rather pro-western country which wants to reduce its dependence on France. Its also a big market in which we ought to do a lot better. They can and do pay. Our selling points are the English language and an ATP package of £40 million which the Cameroon has been very slow to take up. They have a penchant for unnecessarily elaborate and uneconomic projects which we are reluctant to finance. The President may display an almost embarrassing interest in association with the Commonwealth and should be gently steered towards Sonny Ramphal. We want to encourage bilingualism in Cameroon and parliamentary contacts.

The President loves golf and has frequently played in the UK in the past.

CDP

C D POWELL

10 May 1985

CONFIDENTIAL

file ECh

bc PC.

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

15 April 1985

VISIT OF PRESIDENT BIYA OF CAMEROON

You wrote on 9 April to Robin Butler to confirm that President Biya had accepted the Prime Minister's invitation to visit the United Kingdom on 13-17 May.

The Prime Minister agrees to a guard of honour in the FCO quadrangle at 1115 on 14 May, and to talks followed by lunch on 15 May.

I am copying this letter to Sir Philip Moore (Buckingham Palace) and Richard Hatfield (Cabinet Office).

(Charles Powell)

P F Ricketts Esq
Foreign and Commonwealth Office

CONFIDENTIAL

CST

cc PC

Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

9 April, 1985

Yes mt

Prime Minister ①
Content for talks at 12.00 followed by lunch at 1300 on Wednesday 15 May? And for guard of honour in FCO quad at 11.15, followed by a brief courtesy call on Tuesday 14 May?
MCA 9/4

Dear Robin,

Visit of President Biya of Cameroon

Further to your letter of 26 March to Robert Armstrong, I can confirm that President Biya of Cameroon has accepted with great pleasure the Prime Minister's invitation to visit the United Kingdom as a guest of the Government from 13 to 17 May.

May we now confirm the arrangement for President Biya to have talks followed by lunch with the Prime Minister on Wednesday, 15 May? It would be useful to know when the talks should start.

There is also the question of a guard of honour for the President. The options are as follows:

(a) on arrival at the airport on 13 May;

(b) on the morning of 14 May in the FCO quadrangle;

(c) when the President calls at the Palace for lunch with The Queen on 14 May;

(d) on 15 May in the FCO quadrangle prior to talks and lunch with the Prime Minister.

The most convenient answer would be (b) If the Prime Minister agrees, we would propose to arrange a short ceremony at 11.15 am followed by a brief courtesy call on the Prime Minister. That would allow the President to be greeted by the Prime Minister as his host, at an early stage of his visit. This would satisfy protocol and make the detailed planning of his programme easier, eg because it would then allow him to meet members of the Opposition.

I am copying this to Sir Philip Moore (Buckingham Palace) and Richard Hatfield (Cabinet Office).

Yours ever,

Peter Ricketts

(P F Ricketts)
Private Secretary

F E R Butler Esq
10 Downing Street

Rotary Cameroon April 80

DEPARTMENT OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY
1-19 VICTORIA STREET
LONDON SW1H 0ET
TELEPHONE DIRECT LINE 01-215 5422
SWITCHBOARD 01-215 7877

JU246
Secretary of State for Trade and Industry

2 April 1985

The Rt Hon Sir Geoffrey Howe QC MP
Secretary of State for
Foreign & Commonwealth Affairs
Foreign & Commonwealth Office
Whitehall
London SW1

MBPM

Dear Geoffrey,

CAMEROON FLOATING DRY DOCK PROJECT

I have delayed replying to your minute of 8 February until we had had a chance to conduct a post-mortem on this project which had already been awarded to our competitors by the time your minute arrived.

Our researches show that ODA were consistent in opposing aid support for the British consortium from 1983 onwards and that the consortium were less than effective in providing fresh information which might have enabled ODA to reconsider their position.

You said that the Cameroonians appear to have had their expectations of a UK aid offer aroused. I am satisfied that officials here and in the Posts at Yaounde and Douala at no time misrepresented the position to the local authorities. On the other hand, it is clear that the consortium, on at least five occasions, told the Cameroonians that aid finance was being considered. Paul Channon found no evidence of soured relations during his visit. On the contrary he was given a warm welcome. President Biya went out of his way to indicate his wish for closer commercial relations and responded promptly and positively to Paul's advocacy of Standard Chartered's application to operate in Cameroon. But the dry dock episode may well have raised doubts in Cameroonian minds about our positive commitment to projects in that country.

I believe we should now look more positively at our use of the aid/credit package which forms part of our strategy for penetrating the valuable Cameroonian market. Paul Channon has returned from his visit to Cameroon convinced that British companies will not secure major project business without aid

support, since the Cameroonians are bent on exploiting the willingness of our competitors to offer aid or other soft finance. Moreover, with our own aid/credit package on the table, the Cameroonians must be discouraged from negotiating contracts with UK firms on purely commercial terms.

I hope you will agree that it is important that our departments should attempt to reach an early joint view on potential projects in this market, taking account of the developmental, as well as the industrial and commercial factors and not losing sight of the objectives behind our decision to set up the ATP package in the first place.

I am copying this letter to the Prime Minister, Nigel Lawson, Nicholas Ridley and to Sir Robert Armstrong.

Yours
Norman

NORMAN TEBBIT

CAMEROON: Nelo April 85

010

NBPM

CONFIDENTIAL

70 Whitehall, London SW1A 2AS Telephone 01-233 8319

Secretary of the Cabinet and Head of the Home Civil Service

Sir Robert Armstrong GCB CVO

Ref. A085/965 29 March 1985

My dear Antony,

Proposed Visit of President Biya of Cameroon

I should have no objection to an invitation being issued to President Biya of Cameroon to visit the United Kingdom as a guest of the Government from 13 to 17 May.

I am sending copies of this letter to Philip Moore and Robin Butler.

Yours ever

Robert

Sir Antony Acland KCMG KCVO

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

JR

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Principal Private Secretary

26 March 1985

PROPOSED VISIT OF PRESIDENT BIYA OF CAMEROON

Antony Acland kindly copied to me his letter of 25 March to you. The Prime Minister would have no objection to an invitation being issued to President Biya of Cameroon to visit the United Kingdom as a guest of the Government from 13 to 17 May.

I am copying this letter to Antony Acland and Sir Philip Moore.

(F.E.R. BUTLER)

Sir Robert Armstrong, GCB, CVO,
Cabinet Office.

FCRB

1

Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

Sir Antony Acland KCMG KCVO
Permanent Under-Secretary of State

25 March 1985

Prime Minister
When you last saw papers on this subject, you did think that either Lusinchi or Biya were important to Britain. It is now short notice for a visit in May. Agree Biya, faute de mieux?
will request if req.
Yes MT
FCRB

Sir Robert Armstrong GCB CVO
CABINET OFFICE

My dear Robert,

PROPOSED VISIT OF PRESIDENT BIYA OF CAMEROON

1. In her letter of 26 February, Rosalind Mulligan said you were content with the proposal that President Lusinchi of Venezuela should visit the UK as a Guest of Government from 13-17 May. Unfortunately, Lusinchi cannot now visit at this time.

2. If you, Philip Moore and Robin Butler, to whom I am copying this letter, have no objections, we propose to fill this gap in the visits programme by offering these dates to President Biya of Cameroon. Although I note from Robin Butler's letter of 25 February that the Prime Minister has limited enthusiasm for a visit by Biya, we believe a visit would be useful and could help the efforts of British companies to break into the potentially lucrative market of this oil rich state.

3. President Biya, a keen anglophile, would like to reduce his country's perceived over-dependence on France and we should be able to exploit this, and the fact that until the late fifties part of his country was under British rule, to our commercial advantage. Both Mrs Lynda Chalker and Mr Channon, who have paid visits to Cameroon in the last few months, have endorsed the value of an early visit to the UK by President Biya.

/4.

4. Following a visit to France in February, President Biya's Directeur du Cabinet Civile told our Ambassador in Yaoundé that the President would welcome an early invitation to visit the UK. Such a visit would give credence to his argument that in commerce and politics Cameroon is not tied to France. We believe therefore that he would accept this invitation at short notice.

Yours ever

Antony

Antony Acland

copies to:

F E R Butler Esq
No.10 Downing Street

The Rt Hon Sir Philip Moore
GCVO KCB CMG
Buckingham Palace

NBPM
OR

FCS/85/31

SECRETARY OF STATE FOR TRADE AND INDUSTRY

Cameroon Floating Drydock Project

1. Thank you for your letter of 30 January with which you enclosed copies of the recent letters between Paul Channon and Timothy Raison. I have also taken note of Nicholas Ridley's view expressed in his letter of 4 February, copied to you. After careful study I am sure that, on the evidence available to ODA, it is right not to accept this project for financing under the Aid and Trade Provision. In its present form the project is simply not economically viable.

2. We can see that there might be worthwhile commercial spin-off from the project but against this we have had to consider the economic factors. When we first heard about the proposal in March 1983, we were under something of a handicap by not having an independent feasibility study but we looked closely at a study produced by the Cameroonians. This presents a more optimistic picture than is justified: it failed to take into account the generally accepted view that oil production in Cameroon will decline from 1990 onwards. Moreover the proposal from British Shipbuilders to the Department of Trade and Industry, which formed the basis of a submission to ODA, was sadly short of detail about other drydock facilities in the West Africa region. When we looked into this we learnt that there are drydock facilities at Lagos, Abidjan, Tema and Boma (Zaire). (The largest dock at Abidjan can take vessels up to 10,000 tons - the size contemplated for the new dock in Cameroon.)

.../3.

3. It is uncertain whether the Cameroon dock would be able to attract shipping away from existing facilities on the African coast. Our research suggests that the likely users would be confined to vessels of the Cameroon National Line, Gabon companies and possibly the Nigeria National Line. We were advised that even under the most favourable circumstances the new dock would have a utilisation rate of no more than 73 per cent. The British Shipbuilders proposal could be no more precise than to say that the new dock would be utilised by between 60 and 180 vessels. Our enquiries suggest that it could be much closer to the lower figure.

4. The possibility of a low utilisation rate, the large size of dock proposed and the problems of management meant that we could not regard the project, in its present form, as being a worthwhile investment. This is not only an aid matter but one of commercial concern as well since involvement in unprofitable projects discredits all concerned. I understand that last year your officials accepted our view that the project did not merit support.

5. We explained our views to British Shipbuilders (as well as to DTI) last summer and in view of that one might have expected them to come back to us if they disagreed, or to recommend to the Cameroonians that they should modify the project, in particular the size of the dock, in the hope that this would significantly improve the rate of return on the investment. Not only would the capital requirement have been reduced but so also would the recurrent operating costs and the managerial capacity needed. I see from your letter that the total estimated cost is now £22 million as against the estimate of £17.75 million in May 1983 (a sum that included £6-7 million for site facilities at Douala).

.../We

We were asked to reconsider our position in haste, without any evidence of an improved economic basis, because of a reported German offer of concessional finance. However the German authorities told ODA (in their telegram of 24 January copied to DTI) that they were "not prepared to offer any kind of concessional financing for this project". ODA officials had made it clear that more information would be needed before we could contemplate a change of view. Despite this the Cameroonians appear to have been led to expect an offer from us and this has soured relations with them. I hope Paul Channon will be able to set this to rights on his forthcoming visit.

6. If the Cameroonians are really serious about operating a new dock efficiently and competitively we believe they need to reconsider the specification afresh. If they could be persuaded to do this and British Shipbuilders could come forward with a proposal based on a smaller less expensive dock together with evidence that the demand exists for a dock in the region of say 4,000-5,000 tons, we would very willingly reconsider the case.

7. I am copying this minute to the Prime Minister, Nigel Lawson, Nicholas Ridley and Sir Robert Armstrong.

GEOFFREY HOWE

Foreign and Commonwealth Office
8 February 1985

Cameroon: UK/Cameroon Relations April 80.

COMMERCIAL IN CONFIDENCE

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORT
2 MARSHAM STREET LONDON SW1P 3EB

01-212 3434

The Rt Hon Sir Geoffrey Howe QC MP
Secretary of State for Foreign and
Commonwealth Affairs
Foreign and Commonwealth Office
Downing Street
London
SW1

4 February 1985

Await FCS reply
AM

Dear Geoffrey

CAMEROON: FLOATING DRY DOCK PROJECT

Norman Tebbit copied to me his letter of 30 January.

Lynda Chalker visited Cameroon last September. She tells me that Ministers and others she met made it clear that Cameroon was very keen to develop its trading links with the UK in the transport and other sectors. They impressed on her their wish to reduce their dependence on France.

The dry dock project will provide much needed work for our own shipbuilding industry. It should also help British industry to gain a valuable foothold in the Cameroon, which can act as a springboard for other markets in Francophone and sub-Saharan Africa.

It follows that we fully endorse the line Norman is taking and we hope you will find a way for the UK consortium to be supported with a mixed credit offer.

I am copying this letter to the Prime Minister, Norman Tebbit, Nigel Lawson and Sir Robert Armstrong.

Yours ever
Nicholas

NICHOLAS RIDLEY

CAMBLOWN : Rels April 80

COMMERCIAL IN CONFIDENCE

DEPARTMENT OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY
1-19 VICTORIA STREET
LONDON SW1H 0ET
TELEPHONE DIRECT LINE 01-215 5422
SWITCHBOARD 01-215 7877

Secretary of State for Trade and Industry

30 January 1985

The Rt Hon Sir Geoffrey Howe QC MP
Secretary of State for Foreign and
Commonwealth Affairs
Foreign and Commonwealth Office
Downing Street
London SW1

NBPM
Await FCS reply

D Geoffrey,

CAMEROON: FLOATING DRY DOCK PROJECT

I am minuting you on a potential aid case about which Paul Channon and Tim Raison have been in correspondence but have been unable to agree. I attach copies of the relevant papers. will request if req'd.

2 A British consortium is in the running for a £22 million contract to supply a floating dry dock to the Cameroon Port Authority. When the Authority's Tender Board considered a number of international bids last week they provisionally decided, in the absence of concessionary finance in support of the British aid, to split the contract among three other foreign suppliers. HM Ambassador in Yaounde reports however that the Cameroonians have indicated that the contract could still come to Britain if attractive finance were offered. But we shall have to move quickly if we are not to be beaten to the post by the Germans who are also said to be considering soft credit terms.

3 The Cameroon Government was offered a mixed aid/credit package eighteen months ago of which not one penny has yet been taken up. We see the floating dock as an admirable candidate under this line of credit but Tim Raison's reservations about the strength of the developmental case have not permitted him to support aid for this contract. I do not share all of these reservations. But ultimately, of course, this aspect of the case for aid must be for his and your judgement.

4 However, I do not believe that sufficient weight has been given to the wider industrial and commercial considerations. First, advice from the Ambassador makes it clear that the Cameroonians are bending over backwards to give us a second chance to come up with concessionary finance, in the full knowledge of the unused line of credit on the table, and that if we fail to do so British

JH2AED

suppliers are likely to be excluded from other public sector projects due to be put out for tender in the near future. On the other hand, if we do offer concessionary finance, there appears to be a good prospect of further business in the shipbuilding and port sectors. Secondly, I am concerned that we should take this opportunity to help the hard-pressed shipbuilding industry. This order would help avert some further redundancies to those I have recently brought to colleagues' attention.

5 Finally, I believe it is relevant that the Cameroonians are clearly determined to have this floating dock. The question is simply whether or not British industry can benefit from supplying it.

6 I should be grateful therefore for your early agreement to aid being provided in support of the British bid from the line of credit already extended to Cameroon.

7 I am copying this letter to the Prime Minister, Nigel Lawson, Nicholas Ridley and Sir Robert Armstrong.

Yours ever
Norman

NORMAN TEBBIT

OVERSEAS DEVELOPMENT ADMINISTRATION
ELAND HOUSE
STAG PLACE LONDON SW1E 5DH
Telephone 01-213 5409

From the Minister

16 January 1985

The Rt Hon Paul Channon MP
Minister for Trade
Department of Trade and Industry
1 Victoria Street
LONDON SW1H OET

Dear Mr. Channon,

CAMEROON : FLOATING DRY DOCK

Thank you for your letter of 14 January. We have been aware of this potential case for some time.

We would be ill advised to take the Ministry of Plan's support for the British proposal at its face value. Experience shows that even if the Ministry of Plan has strong preference for a British package they may well be overruled by the Ministry for Public Contracts.

We have a copy of the Cameroonians' own feasibility study which we considered last June. We concluded that the project was not aid worthy. Last July we informed British Shipbuilders, with your Department's agreement, of the reasons why we were unable to accept the project for aid support and invited them to let us know if they had any information which would question the validity of our assessment. We are now being asked to reconsider our position at very short notice without any further studies having been done, or any significant new information being given to us.

Our reservations about the project are as follows:

a. The Cameroonian Feasibility Study concentrated on benefits to the off-shore oil industry for supply vessels etc, about half of which were in Cameroonian waters. However the most authoritative sources, eg the IMF, believe that the Cameroonian oil industry has reached its peak and the oil is expected to run out by the mid 1990s. It is too early to take account of possible future needs of the Angola oil industry. Similarly it would be imprudent to build a dry dock now in the expectation that the Cameroonians might find more oil later.

b. The feasibility study further overstated the benefits from the drydock by failing to distinguish between benefits to the oil companies (partly foreign owned) and benefits to the Cameroonian economy.

c. We have not overlooked the effect of possible economic growth and the increase in demand that may flow from a drydock. British Shipbuilders have argued that a drydock could attract custom, and we have now considered the further information they have provided from a report by Appledore. The Cameroonian National line is far too small and there is no evidence of sufficient incentive to encourage ships to travel empty to dry dock at Douala. Ships normally dry dock at the end of a run and too few terminate at Douala.

/d.

d. There is concern, too, about management. Ship owners require drydocks to be well managed to minimise loss of earnings. Weaknesses in Douala port management and the absence of a clearly defined relationship between the port authorities and the dry dock company would militate against the efficiency of the dry dock. These weaknesses in management are a matter of concern to the World Bank who have been a major contributor to recent expansion of the Port.

e. World Bank officials, though they have not made their own study of the proposed dry dock, do not regard a 10,000 tonnes dry dock as necessary or desirable and are concerned that it may strain the finances of the Port Authority and further stretch an already weak management.

If the Norwegian shipping line to which you refer is Parley Augustsson and its representative Mr Johannesen (who is their Chief Marine Engineer) then I should say we have consulted him direct. His interest in a dry dock at Douala is that it will give him an alternative to the dry docks in Brazil. He will then be able to play one dry dock off against another. That may be good for shipping but it does not guarantee any business - or profitable business - for Douala.

I note what you say about the potential of aid as "seed corn". However, withholding very soft finance for a £25 million dry dock need not prevent us from later considering, for example, ATP for gantry cranes. Meanwhile what we do not spend on this project is of course available for allocation to others whose commercial and developmental returns appear much greater.

I have copied this letter to Lynda Chalker and Malcolm Rifkind.

Sincerely,

Michael Pitchford

PS/ for TIMOTHY RAISON
(Approved by Mr Raison
and signed in his absence)

MIN. FOR TRADE'S OFFICE.

TO MR EVERETT

FOR ADVICE (AND DRAFT REPLY IF APPROPRIATE)
PLEASE BY: ASAP
(PLEASE PHONE EXT: 5013 IF DEADLINE CANNOT BE MET.)

COPIES TO OTS

PS/Sir A. Rawlinson
PS/SEC ECGD
Mr Roberts
Mr Benjamin PGP
Mr Hutton OT2
Mr Hunter OT3
Mr Conley OT4
Mr Titchener OT5
Mr Farry SAP3
Mr Parish OT5/3
MPT TO SEE

DEPARTMENT OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY
1-19 VICTORIA STREET
LONDON SW1H 0ET
Telephone (Direct dialling) 01-215)
GTN 215)
(Switchboard) 215 7877

From the Minister for Trade

The Rt Hon Timothy Raison MP
Minister of State for Overseas Development
Overseas Development Administration
Eland House
Stag Place
London
SW1E 5DH

14 January 1985

Dear Tim

CAMEROON: FLOATING DRY DOCK

This case has been brought to my urgent attention on my return to this office today simultaneously with representation from David Atkinson as the constituency MP for Marples International Limited, a member of the British Consortium.

The British Consulate in Douala has been advised by the Port Authority of the terms of a German soft finance offer for this business. ECGD have not, so far, succeeded in substantiating this through their contacts. But it seems likely that we face a significant German aid element whether or not formally tabled.

However the Port Authority has already demonstrated a strong preference for the British package on technical grounds by twice extending the deadline to allow the consortium to revise its bid, and the Director of Programmation at the Ministry of Plan has told our Ambassador in Yaounde that if the United Kingdom were to offer similar concessionary terms to that of the United Kingdom's £40m aid and credit package the contract would be awarded to the consortium.

I understand that your own officials have had reservations about the use of aid for this project and that the consortium is preparing additional evidence on costs and demand potential now. In the meantime there seems a good case for a dry dock of the kind proposed. Existing facilities int he region are already too small for the bigger ships operating on the West Africa coast. The larger dock has the flexibility to accommodate either larger ships or multiples of smaller vessels. Estimates of demand vary between 60 and 180 ships a year. But given a 50 year life span for the average dock it would in any case seem prudent to anticipate significant growth.

Membership of the franc zone should encourage co-members to use the facility. The existing dock has a good reputation and there is every reason to suppose that the new dock would operate at competitive rates. Material costs are not a significant consideration since most ships annual dry docking is for routine maintenance and spares are usually carried on board for this purpose. The new facility would have little or no impact on any United Kingdom facility.

999-3

The question of buying a second-hand dock, whilst prima facie an attractive idea, is not practically a commercial proposition. There are apparently very few docks of a suitable size and most of them are in poor condition.

A Norwegian ship-owner operating in West Africa has expressed the view to the consortium that such an enlarged dry dock facility would be a godsend to operators in this region; while a leading marine consultant in London quite independent of the consortium has told my officials that he strongly supported these arguments for the dry dock.

Until recently my Department's support for the consortium stopped short of recommending its inclusion in the £40m package as there was no indication of any follow-on business from the dry dock. The aid credit is of course intended primarily for "seedcorn" projects. However, two possibilities for further business have now been identified. The first is a requirement for gantry cranes and the construction of new warehouses. The second is the Cameroon shipping line's (Camships) proposed review of its fleet requirements. The presence of two British shipbuilders (Appledore and BS) in Cameroon on the dry dock project would enable them to establish relations with Camships which would give the United Kingdom yards a significant advantage.

Our Embassy in Yaounde have reported that a decision on this project is expected no later than 17 January. I should therefore be grateful if you could urgently agree to aid support for this project.

I am sorry once again to be seeking so urgent a decision.

I am copying this letter to Lynda Chalker and Malcolm Rifkind.

Yours,

PAUL CHANNON

cc	Sir A Rawlinson	
	PS/Secretary	ECGD
	Mr Roberts	
	Mr Benjamin	OT1
	Mr Hutton	OT2
	Mr Burbridge	OT3
	Mr Corley	OT4
	Mr Titchener	OT5
	Mr Farry	SBP
	Mr Everett	OT5/3
	(on file)	

Cameroon.

Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

1 June 1984

Dear John,

A.J.C. 1/6
h.a.

Cameroon: Letter from the President

I enclose a letter from the President of Cameroon to the Prime Minister, thanking her for the message she sent following the attempted coup d'etat that took place in Cameroon in early April.

We do not think President Biya's letter needs a reply.

Yours ever

Peter Ricketts

(R B Bone)
Private Secretary

A J Coles Esq
10 Downing Street

PEACE - WORK - FATHERLAND

REPUBLIC OF CAMEROON

SUBJECT

ce

PRIME MINISTER'S

PERSONAL MESSAGE

SERIAL No. T 73c/84

THE PRESIDENT OF
THE REPUBLIC

N° B 1466/CAB/PR.

YAOUNDE, 4 MAI 1984

DEAR MADAM PRIME MINISTER,

I was particularly touched by the message of sympathy and concern you Kindly sent to me on the occasion of the painful events that have just taken place in Cameroon.

I avail myself of this opportunity to extend to you my gratitude and most heartfelt thanks and appreciation while further wishing that the relations of friendship and cooperation which so happily exist between our two countries will, as in the past, continue to solidify and improve further in the mutual interest of our two countries.

Please accept, Madam Prime Minister, the assurance of my highest consideration.

PAUL BIYA

H. E. MADAM MARGARET THATCHER,
PRIME MINISTER OF GREAT BRITAIN

- LONDON -

Paix — Travail — Patrie

République du Cameroun

Le Président
de la République
N° B 1466/CAB/PR.

Yaoundé, le 4 MAI 1984

MADAME LE PREMIER MINISTRE,

J'ai été particulièrement sensible au message de sympathie que vous avez bien voulu m'adresser à l'occasion des événements douloureux qui viennent de se dérouler au Cameroun.

Je vous prie d'accepter, en même temps que l'expression de ma gratitude, mes sincères remerciements.

Je forme le voeu que les relations d'amitié et de coopération qui existent heureusement entre nos deux pays continueront comme par le passé de se consolider et de se développer dans l'intérêt bien compris de chacun de nos pays.

Je vous prie d'agréer, MADAME LE PREMIER MINISTRE, l'assurance de ma haute considération.

A S. E. MADAME MARGARET THATCHER
PREMIER MINISTRE DE LA GRANDE BRETAGNE

- LONDRES -

PAUL BIYA

REPUBLIQUE UNIE DU CAMEROUN
UNITED REPUBLIC OF CAMEROON
LE PRESIDENT
PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC
PRESIDENCE DE LA REPUBLIQUE

Enter on PA

TOP COPY

cc MASTER
OPS

CONFIDENTIAL

12583 - 1

PRIME MINISTER'S
PERSONAL MESSAGE
SERIAL No. T59/84

OO YAOUNDE
GRS 88
CONFIDENTIAL
FM FCO 121220Z APR 84
TO IMMEDIATE YAOUNDE
TELEGRAM NUMBER 75 OF 12 APRIL

YOUR TELNO 17: MESSAGE FROM THE PRIME MINISTER

1. PLEASE DELIVER THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE FROM THE PRIME MINISTER TO PRESIDENT BIYA AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

BEGINS:

DEAR MR PRESIDENT.

MAY I EXTEND TO YOU, AND TO THE PEOPLE OF THE REPUBLIC OF CAMEROON, MY SYMPATHY AT THE RECENT TRAGIC EVENTS IN YAOUNDE AND THE BLOODSHED THAT THEY HAVE CAUSED.

I AM HEARTENED TO LEARN THAT PEACE AND ORDER HAVE NOW BEEN RESTORED.

YOURS SINCERELY, MARGARET THATCHER.

ENDS

HOWE

NNNN

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PS/PUS
SIR J LEAHY
MR SQUIRE

COPIES TO
MR FORD OT5/DTI

CONFIDENTIAL

FILE

(W)

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

12 April, 1984

CAMEROON: MESSAGE FROM THE PRIME MINISTER

Thank you for your letter of 11 April.

The telegram enclosed with it may be despatched.

I am sending a copy of this letter to Callum McCarthy (Department of Trade and Industry).

A. J. COLES

P. Ricketts, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office

cc PC ①

Prime Minister.

Agree attached message to President of Cameroun?

A.J.C. 9/4.

Yes

Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

11 April 1984

Dear John,

Cameroon: Message from the Prime Minister

Although we still do not have the full details of events of the last few days, it is clear that the attempted coup d'etat in Yaounde has failed and that the Government have re-established control.

Our Ambassador has reported that the Assistant Secretary-General at the Presidency has contacted him on the express instruction of President Biya, to express his appreciation of the objective reporting of the BBC, and to reaffirm his wish to develop relations with the UK. Mr Sparrow has recommended that the Prime Minister consider sending a personal message. We understand that messages have already been sent by President Reagan and President Mitterrand.

Such a gesture would undoubtedly help strengthen our position in what remains, despite recent events, one of the most economically promising markets in black Africa. The moment would be particularly auspicious as relations with France (Cameroon's major trade partner) seem slightly strained, perhaps because of suspicion at the role that ex-President Ahidjo (who is now resident in France) may have played in recent events.

The only reservation about a message would be that unrest may recur and that Biya may not survive in the longer term. But whether or not it was a misjudgement by him that sparked the rebellion, it failed because the bulk of the armed forces and population remained loyal to him.

/I enclose

I enclose a draft telegram. It is deliberately worded in a sympathetic, but anodyne, way.

I am copying this letter to Callum McCarthy (DTI).

Yours ever,

Peter Ricketts

(P F Ricketts)
Private Secretary

A J Coles Esq
10 Downing Street

OUT TELEGRAM

Classification and Caveats	Precedence/Deskby
CONFIDENTIAL	IMMEDIATE

ZCZC	1	ZCZC
GRS	2	GRS
CLASS	3	CONFIDENTIAL
CAVEATS	4	
DESKBY	5	
FM FCO	6	FM FCO
PRE/ADD	7	TO IMMEDIATE YAOUNDE
TEL NO	8	TELEGRAM NUMBER
	9	
	10	YOUR TELNO 107: MESSAGE FROM THE PRIME MINISTER
	11	1. Please deliver the following message from the Prime Minister
	12	to President Biya as soon as possible.
	13	Begins:
	14	Dear Mr President.
	15	May I extend to you, and to the people of the Republic of
	16	Cameroon, my sympathy at the recent tragic events in Yaounde
	17	and the bloodshed that they have caused.
	18	I am heartened to learn that peace and order have now been
	19	restored.
	20	Yours sincerely, Margaret Thatcher.
	21	Ends
///	22	
//	23	HOWE
/	24	NNNN
	25	

NNNN ends telegram	BLANK	Catchword
File number	Dept WAD	Distribution
Drafted by (Block capitals) M F DALY		Limited WAD NEWS PS PS/MR RIFKIND PS/PUS SIR J LEAHY MR SQUIRE CC MR FORD, OT5, DTI
Telephone number 233 4576		
Authorised for despatch		
Comcen reference	Time of despatch	

Subject

cc Master
OPS

TOP COPY

Enter & PA

RESTRICTED

14817 - 1

PRIME MINISTER'S
PERSONAL MESSAGE
SERIAL No. T16B/84

GRS 102
RESTRICTED
FM FCO 241550Z JAN 84
TO IMMEDIATE YAOUNDE
TELEGRAM NUMBER 19 OF 24 JANUARY

PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION: CONGRATULATORY MESSAGE

1. THE PRIME MINISTER HAS AGREED TO SEND BIYA A MESSAGE OF BEST WISHES AFTER HIS ELECTION AS PRESIDENT. PLEASE DELIVER THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE:

BEGINS:

DEAR MR PRESIDENT

I OFFER MY BEST WISHES FOLLOWING YOUR ELECTION AS PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF CAMEROON. MY GOVERNMENT LOOKS FORWARD TO CONTINUING THE GOOD RELATIONS WHICH EXIST WITH YOUR GOVERNMENT AND PEOPLE. I WISH YOU EVERY SUCCESS IN THE TASKS THAT LIE AHEAD OF YOU.

YOURS SINCERELY, MARGARET THATCHER.

ENDS.

HOWE

NNNN X

DISTRIBUTION
LIMITED
WAD
PROTOCOL DEPT
PS
PS/MR RIFKIND
PS/PUS
MR SQUIRE

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

24 January 1984

CAMEROONS

The Prime Minister has approved the message to the President of the Cameroons enclosed with your letter of 23 January.

I should be grateful if you would arrange for its despatch.

A. J. COLES

Roger Bone, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

(1)

Prime Minister.

Agree attached message?

A.J.C. 23/1.

Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

23 January 1984

Yes MT

Dear John,

Cameroon: Message from the Prime Minister following the Presidential Election

President Ahidjo, who had led Cameroon from 1958-82, stepped down in November 1982 in favour of the then Prime Minister Paul Biya. The latter's position has now been confirmed in Presidential elections on 14 January 1984. Sir Geoffrey Howe suggests it would be appropriate for the Prime Minister to send a short message of best wishes. I enclose a draft.

Our commercial interests in Cameroon are growing significantly. UK exports in the first ten months of 1983 totalled £21.6 m., an increase of 23% over the same period last year.

You may recall that the Cameroonians disappointed us by changing their abstention on the UNGA resolution on the Falklands to a vote in favour. We have subsequently been told that this was an error and that the delegation at the General Assembly had, in fact, been instructed to abstain. Our Ambassador has reported that the Cameroonians have shown clear signs of embarrassment at the mistake.

Yours ever,

Peter Ricketts

pp (R B Bone)
Private Secretary

A J Coles Esq
10 Downing Street

OUT TELEGRAM

Classification and Caveats	Precedence/Deskby
RESTRICTED	IMMEDIATE

ZCZC
GRS
CLASS
CAVEATS
DESKBY
FM FCO
PRE/ADD
TEL NO

ZCZC
GRS
RESTRICTED

FM FCO
TO IMMEDIATE YAOUNDE
TELEGRAM NUMBER

PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION: CONGRATULATORY MESSAGE

1. The Prime Minister has agreed to send Biya a message of best wishes after his election as President. Please deliver the following message:

Begins:

Dear Mr President

I offer my best wishes ~~upon~~ FOLLOWING your election as President of the United Republic of Cameroon. My government looks forward to continuing the good relations which exist with your government and people. I wish you every success in the tasks that lie ahead of you.

Yours sincerely, Margaret Thatcher.

/// Ends.

// /

/ HOWE

NNNN

NNNN ends telegram	BLANK	Catchword
File number	Dept WAD	Distribution LIMITED WAD PCD PS PS/MR RIFKIND MR SQUIRE
Drafted by (Block capitals) R D FITCHETT		
Telephone number 233 5662		
Authorised for despatch		
Comcen reference	Time of despatch	

file

BPP

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

16 December 1983

Cameroon: Message to President Biya

Thank you for your letter of 16 December.

In the circumstances I agree that the Prime Minister's letter of 18 November should not be delivered.

A. J. COLES

R.B. Bone, Esq.,

Foreign and Commonwealth Office

RJ

Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

16 December 1983

Dear John

Cameroon: Message to President Biya

You may recall that the Prime Minister signed a letter to President Biya on 18 November (copy enclosed). This was in response to the message from President Biya (copy enclosed) delivered by the Cameroonian Foreign Minister, M. Felix Tonye Mbog, when he called on the Prime Minister on 31 October, and was additionally prompted by M. Mbog's assurances to Sir Geoffrey Howe that Cameroon would maintain its abstention on the Falklands vote.

The Prime Minister's letter was sent to us for onward transmission. However, as Cameroon had just switched from abstention to a vote in favour of the Argentine resolution in the UN General Assembly, we agreed orally that the message should be held whilst our Ambassador in Yaounde sought an explanation of this unhelpful gesture.

On 25 November Mbog promised an explanation in due course. However, nothing has yet been forthcoming and in the light of this unsatisfactory state of affairs it would clearly not be appropriate for the Prime Minister to write in the terms originally envisaged. Our suggestion is, if you agree, that no reply should be sent. President Biya's letter was a courtesy note introducing Mbog, to which no formal reply is strictly necessary.

Yours ever

Roger Bone

(R B Bone)
Private Secretary

A J Coles Esq
10 Downing Street

10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

18 November 1983

Dear Mr. President,

I am most grateful for your letter of 1 October, delivered to me on 31 October by Monsieur Tonye Mbog on his recent visit to London.

We were glad to arrange for Monsieur Mbog to have discussions with two of my Ministerial colleagues, Sir Geoffrey Howe and Mr. Timothy Raison, and to be entertained to lunch by Lady Young, Minister of State at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office. I know that they found these meetings very interesting and useful.

You can be assured, Mr. President, that it is my intention to continue to do everything possible to further the very cordial friendship which exists between our two countries and to give it practical expression.

With warm regards,

Yours sincerely

Margaret Thatcher

His Excellency Monsieur Paul Biya

United Republic of Cameroon

The President
of the Republic

N° A777/CAB/PR

Yaounde, - 1 OCT. 1983

Madam Prime Minister,

Desirous, since my accession to the presidency of my country on 6 November 1982, of maintaining and strengthening the ties which so felicitously exist between our two countries, I have decided to accredit to Your Excellency as Envoy Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, Mr. Felix Tonye Mbog, Minister of Foreign Affairs.

With faith in the qualities and devotedness of Mr. Felix Tonye Mbog, I have requested that he deliver this message of friendship to you. May I ask you therefore to kindly give credence to all that he will relate to you on my behalf, more especially when he shall express to you the wishes of my Government, the Cameroonian people and my own wishes for your personal health, the prosperity of the great British people and peace in the world.

Let me seize this opportunity to inform you of my firm determination, since my accession to the presidency of my country, to meet the aspirations of democracy and freedom cherished by the Cameroonian people.

Her Excellency Mrs. Margaret Thatcher,
Prime Minister of the United Kingdom,
London

Indeed, I swore before my countrymen to pursue a policy of economic, social and cultural progress based on the reassertion of the permanence of our basic options of National Unity, Economic Liberalism, Social Justice and respect for Human Rights.

Madam Prime Minister, I strongly hope that you will give my Government and myself the support which the Cameroonian people owe to themselves the duty to expect of the friendly British people for the attainment of these objectives in peace and stability.

With confidence that we shall, as usual, and certainly more than in the past, count on the solidarity and friendship of your country over the destiny of which you preside with such dignity, kindly accept, Madam Prime Minister, the renewed assurances of my very high esteem.

Paul Biya

JR

CC FCO

10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

cc MASTER
OPS

18 November 1983

PRIME MINISTER'S
PERSONAL MESSAGE
SERIAL No. T189A/83

Dear Mr. President,

I am most grateful for your letter of 1 October, delivered to me on 31 October by Monsieur Tonye Mbog on his recent visit to London.

We were glad to arrange for Monsieur Mbog to have discussions with two of my Ministerial colleagues, Sir Geoffrey Howe and Mr. Timothy Raison, and to be entertained to lunch by Lady Young, Minister of State at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office. I know that they found these meetings very interesting and useful.

You can be assured, Mr. President, that it is my intention to continue to do everything possible to further the very cordial friendship which exists between our two countries and to give it practical expression.

With warm regards,

Yours sincerely

Margaret Thatcher

His Excellency Monsieur Paul Biya

Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

16 November 1983

Type letter pl.

AR 16/11.

Dear John,

Cameroon: President Biya's Letter to the Prime Minister

You will recall that the Prime Minister received the Cameroon Foreign Minister, M. Mbog, on 31 October. M. Mbog handed over a letter dated 1 October to the Prime MInister from President Biya.

I enclose a draft reply.

Yours ever,

for (R B Bone)
Private Secretary

A J Coles Esq
10 Downing Street

1 (Revised)

DRAFT: ~~minute/letter/telegram/despatch/note~~

TYPE: Draft/Final 1+

FROM:
Prime Minister

Reference

DEPARTMENT: **TEL. NO:**

SECURITY CLASSIFICATION

Top Secret
Secret
Confidential
Restricted
Unclassified

PRIVACY MARKING

.....In Confidence

CAVEAT.....

TO:

His Excellency
M. Paul Biya
President of the United Republic of
Cameroon

Your Reference

Copies to:

SUBJECT:

Dear Mr President,

I am most grateful for your letter of 1 October delivered to me on 31 October by M. Tonye Mbog on his recent visit to London.

~~As I am sure he has told you,~~ We were ~~able~~ glad to arrange for M. Mbog to have discussions with two of my Ministerial colleagues, Sir Geoffrey Howe and Mr Timothy Raison, and to be entertained to lunch by Lady Young, Minister of State at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office. I know that they found these meetings very interesting and useful.

You can be assured, Mr President, that it is my ~~hope~~ intention to continue to do everything possible to further the very cordial friendship which exists between our two countries and to give it practical expression.

With warm regards

Enclosures—flag(s).....

Cameroon : UK | Cameroon Relation | April '80

 FILE

da

cc MASTER SET

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

31 October 1983

Dear Roger,

Cameroon Foreign Minister

The above called on the Prime Minister at 1130 this morning and stayed for 20 minutes.

The Prime Minister said that she was very pleased to receive M. Mbog. She recalled that the previous President of Cameroon had visited London during the Falklands campaign. We had been deeply grateful for Cameroon support during that event and we were anxious to develop the closest possible relations.

M. Mbog handed over a message from President Biya to the Prime Minister, a copy of which is enclosed. He said that he was grateful for his welcome. Cameroon had been through a constitutional crisis following the resignation of President Ahidjo on 4 November 1982. Relations between the new and the old President had deteriorated since last June. Ahidjo had been President of the single political Party in the Cameroon and had attempted to establish the primacy of the party over the state. President Biya and the whole of the Cameroon people had opposed this. The crisis had also involved a plot to destabilize the regime. The people of the Cameroon had insisted that President Biya should become President of the Party as well. As a result of their pressure, Ahidjo, who lived in France, had resigned the Presidency of the Party, and on 14 September a special congress of the Party had made Biya its President.

The President and the Government had sent him on a mission to the British people to convey the message that the crisis was over and calm reigned. Since the United Kingdom was to a certain extent a privileged partner of Cameroon it was important that Britain should be reassured that all was now calm and that the people of Cameroon were going about their normal work.

President Biya wished to assure the Prime Minister that Cameroon remained faithful to its basic principles. He had undertaken to restore a greater degree of democracy, had reiterated Cameroon's belief in economic liberalism and had confirmed that Cameroon's multi-cultural situation (the two languages) would remain. Further, Cameroon had reaffirmed its attachment to the Charter of the United Nations and the OAU. President Biya now

/ hoped

da

hoped more than ever that relations with the United Kingdom would be further consolidated. He wished Cameroon to remain an island of peace in an area of instability and hoped that Cameroon's friends would help it to achieve this.

The Prime Minister said that she very much appreciated the Foreign Minister's account of Cameroon's problems. We were happy that they had been solved. Our friendship, which was a deep one, was with the people of Cameroon and we respected the principles which that country was determined to uphold. We entirely agreed on the importance of Cameroon remaining an oasis of peace and stability in support of democratic principles. We would do everything possible to advance our friendship and to give it practical expression. She asked the Foreign Minister to convey her warm regards to President Biya.

Yours ever

Fred Cole.

R.B. Bone, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

CONFIDENTIAL

Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

28 October 1983

Dear John,

Call by Cameroon Foreign Minister, 11.30 am, 31 October

The purpose of this call, made at Cameroonian request, is for M Tonye Mbog to deliver a personal message to the Prime Minister from President Biya.

M Tonye Mbog will also be calling on Sir Geoffrey Howe and Timothy Raison, and Lady Young will be hosting a luncheon.

I enclose a brief, together with a personality note. M Mbog will be accompanied by the Cameroonian Ambassador. The latter is bilingual, and would be able to handle interpretation. Michael Daly, Head of West Africa Department, is also available to attend as note-taker/interpreter if you so wish.

Yours ever,

Peter Ricketts

(P F Ricketts)
Private Secretary

A J Coles Esq
10 Downing Street

CONFIDENTIAL

MT

CALL BY THE CAMEROON FOREIGN MINISTER ON THE PRIME MINISTER, 31 OCTOBER, 11.30.AM.

POINTS TO MAKE

INTERNAL SITUATION

1. Interested to see the far-reaching changes recently made by President Biya.

2. Appreciated explanation of the internal situation given by Your Excellency to our Chargé. How do you see future developments?

BILATERAL RELATIONS

3. Glad you are seeing the Secretary of State for fuller discussions on Wednesday and Mr Raison tomorrow to talk about our bilateral aid programme. We follow Cameroon's economic development with interest. Glad that trade is prospering between our two countries.

CALL BY THE CAMEROON FOREIGN MINISTER ON THE PRIME MINISTER:
31 OCTOBER, 11.30.AM.
ESSENTIAL FACTS

INTERNAL POLITICAL

1. President Biya has been steadily consolidating his position since succeeding Ahidjo last November. A Government reshuffle on 18 June (his third since taking over) which included dropping some of Ahidjo's close associates seemed deliberately timed to come immediately prior to Mitterrand's visit to Cameroon. It was apparently carried out without consultation with Ahidjo - who had retained the Presidency of the party - and caused some friction. But Ahidjo made no public comment.

2. On 22 August Biya announced further far-reaching changes. The Prime Minister and Defence Minister were dismissed, and an interim Prime Minister appointed (Luc Ayang). The Delegate General for Security and Tourism were swapped and the former post made answerable to the Presidency. The Northern and Central-South provinces were re-organized into three and two new provinces respectively. At the same time Biya announced the discovery of a plot against the Government, that some arrests had been made and that the culprits had confessed their guilt.

3. Biya's actions appear specifically aimed at Ahidjo's men, and their northern power base. Speaking from his residence in France, Ahidjo publicly attacked Biya, characterizing him as a 'swindler, weakling and hypocrite'. On 27 August he announced his resignation as President of the Party (UNC). Biya has since been elected to the post.

4. On 27 August our Chargé in Yaoundé was informed by the Foreign Minister (Tonye Mbog) that only two people had been arrested. All sections of society supported Biya; the dispute was not between North and South, nor between Muslim and Christian. No further ministerial changes were imminent.

/GENERAL

GENERAL BACKGROUND

5. Independent since 1960. Politically stable and relatively prosperous. Keynotes have been political moderation and sensible economic development. Small-scale, non-OPEC oil producer; has taken care not to become over-dependent on oil revenues. Virtually self-sufficient in hydro-electricity.

BILATERAL RELATIONS

6. Bilateral relations good. Steered neutral course politically between France and UK (non-attendance at Franco-African Summits; not a Commonwealth member) although French influence has predominated, particularly in trade (eg CFA franc; ELF dominate oil exploitation). But UK exports 1982 were worth £22.5m, and Cameroonians consciously trying to diversify. UK natural partner, because of old ties.

7. During the past two and a half years, there have been a large number of high-level visitors in both directions. Ahidjo paid his second official visit to UK April 1982. Initialled agreement on a 'mixed credit' package (£10m aid, £30m ECGD-backed credit). Expressed understanding for UK position on Falklands; Cameroon abstained on the second Argentine UN resolution.

PERSONALITY NOTE

His Excellency Monsieur FELIX TONYE MBOG (Pronounced TONIEH EMBOG)

Minister of Foreign Affairs since April 1983

Born 1934 at Sodibanga (Centre-South) Catholic

Law Graduate (Yaoundé) Studied administration in Paris

Career Civil Servant since 1966.

Posts held: Chargé de Mission at the Presidency 1966-69

Secretary-General of Ministry of Labour and Social Insurance 1969-72

Minister of Youth and Sport 1972-79

Minister of Agriculture 1979-November 1982

Minister of Labour November 1982-April 1983

A straightforward good administrator, who has held a series of fairly dull posts. Taciturn, but can be bluntly outspoken when roused. Went to school with President Biya, and remains his close associate.

Francophone. Speaks no English.

Married. At least 6 children.

No record of previous visits to UK.

CALL ON THE PRIME MINISTER BY THE FOREIGN MINISTER OF CAMEROON, MR M'BOG: 31 OCTOBER 1983

FALKLANDS

POINTS TO MAKE

1. Grateful for Cameroon's abstention at last year's General Assembly. Hope we can rely on you again this year - issue to which we attach considerable importance.

2. Argentina has done nothing in the last year to inspire confidence that the reappraisal of policy in Buenos Aires necessary for the reduction of tension in the South Atlantic will be forthcoming. Rather the opposite.

ESSENTIAL FACTS

1. Cameroon was one of the 52 countries to abstain on the Argentine resolution at the General Assembly last year. In our contacts with them so far, the Cameroonians have been sympathetic to our lobbying, but have, as yet, given no firm undertaking to abstain again this year.

2. The Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary will, if necessary, be giving Mr M'Bog a fuller account of our Falklands policy when he sees him on 2 November.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

28 OCTOBER 1983

CONFIDENTIAL

BF

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

27 October 1983

CAMEROONIAN FOREIGN MINISTER

Thank you for your letter of 20 October to John Coles.

The Prime Minister has agreed to see the Cameroonian Foreign Minister at 1630 on Monday 31 October for thirty minutes. I should be grateful for a brief before the weekend.

DAVID BARCLAY

Roger Bone, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

CONFIDENTIAL

010

Prime Minister.
In view of Cameroons support on the Falklands would you see the Foreign Minister at 1630 on Monday, 31 October for 30 minutes?

A. & C. 26/10

Yes MT

Foreign and Commonwealth Office
London SW1A 2AH

20 October 1983

Dear John,

Possible call by Cameroonian Foreign Minister: 2 November

M. Felix Tonye Mbog, the Cameroonian Foreign Minister, has asked to call on the Prime Minister on 1 or 2 November to deliver a personal message of friendship from President Biya.

Cameroon has been one of very few African states that have supported us over the Falklands dispute. This followed the State Visit of President Ahidjo in April last year (Ahidjo resigned last November and was succeeded by Biya, his protégé). Sir John Thomson in New York has underlined the importance of Cameroon as a potential ally in the forthcoming UN debate (which is likely to be the week after Mbog's visit) and the opportunity the visit provides to emphasise our appreciation of their support. Conversely, should Mbog feel he has been slighted it could have an adverse effect. He is close to President Biya, and the Cameroonians have made clear to our Chargé d'Affaires in Yaoundé the President's wish that the message be delivered by Mbog personally to the Prime Minister. He will also be delivering messages in the United States and Canada before coming to London.

In these circumstances, Sir Geoffrey Howe believes there is a good case for acceding to Mbog's request.

We and the DTI have also devoted considerable efforts over the last two years to developing trade relations with Cameroon, which is one of the most politically stable and economically sound countries in Africa, but where France has held a dominant position. British companies are now pursuing a number of major contracts worth in total more than £200 m. We have also agreed a £40 m. mixed credit package

/with

with Cameroon (£10 m. Aid and £30 m. linked ECGD credit).

I should be grateful to know whether the Prime Minister would agree to see Mbog.

Yours ever

(R B Bone)
Private Secretary

A J Coles Esq
10 Downing Street

REPUBLIQUE UNIE DU CAMEROUN
UNITED REPUBLIC OF CAMEROON

PAIX — TRAVAIL — PATRIE
PEACE — WORK — FATHERLAND

PRIME MINISTER'S
PERSONAL MESSAGE
SERIAL No. T141 AA /83
cc MASTER
OPS

LE PRÉSIDENT DE LA RÉPUBLIQUE

United Republic of Cameroon

The President
of the Republic

N° A777/CAB/PR

Yaounde, - 1 OCT. 1983

Madam Prime Minister,

Desirous, since my accession to the presidency of my country on 6 November 1982, of maintaining and strengthening the ties which so felicitously exist between our two countries, I have decided to accredit to Your Excellency as Envoy Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, Mr. Felix Tonye Mbog, Minister of Foreign Affairs.

With faith in the qualities and devotedness of Mr. Felix Tonye Mbog, I have requested that he deliver this message of friendship to you. May I ask you therefore to kindly give credence to all that he will relate to you on my behalf, more especially when he shall express to you the wishes of my Government, the Cameroonian people and my own wishes for your personal health, the prosperity of the great British people and peace in the world.

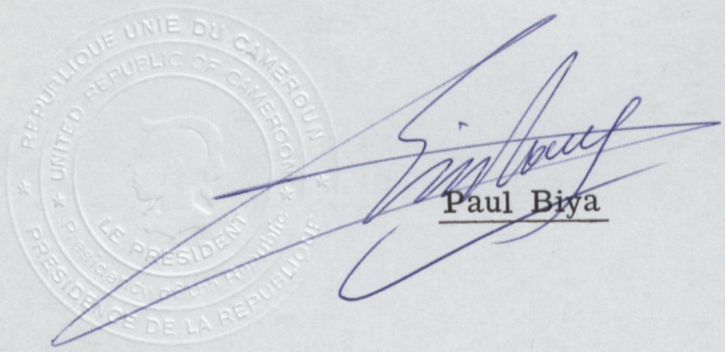
Let me seize this opportunity to inform you of my firm determination, since my accession to the presidency of my country, to meet the aspirations of democracy and freedom cherished by the Cameroonian people.

Her Excellency Mrs. Margaret Thatcher,
Prime Minister of the United Kingdom,
London

Indeed, I swore before my countrymen to pursue a policy of economic, social and cultural progress based on the reassertion of the permanence of our basic options of National Unity, Economic Liberalism, Social Justice and respect for Human Rights.

Madam Prime Minister, I strongly hope that you will give my Government and myself the support which the Cameroonian people owe to themselves the duty to expect of the friendly British people for the attainment of these objectives in peace and stability.

With confidence that we shall, as usual, and certainly more than in the past, count on the solidarity and friendship of your country over the destiny of which you preside with such dignity, kindly accept, Madam Prime Minister, the renewed assurances of my very high esteem.



Paul Biya

Mr Coles

I take it that the sting comes in the tail.

You will be intervening.

MCI.

GR 824

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

FM YAOUNDE 181530Z APR 83

TO PRIORITY FCO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 78 OF 18 APRIL

AND TO PRIORITY DOT, ODA

AND TO SAVING DOUALA

OUR TELNO 73: CAMEROON MINISTERIAL CHANGES.

1. THE LATEST MINISTERIAL RESHUFFLE WAS CARRIED OUT IN THE BEST CAMEROON TRADITION. THE TIMING WAS UNEXPECTED AND THE CHANGES WERE PREPARED IN PERFECT SECRECY. IT IS DOUBTFUL THAT ANY OF THE VICTIMS WERE AWARE OF THEIR IMPENDING DISMISSAL UNTIL THEY HEARD THE PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT.

2. THE CHANGES ARE IMPORTANT FOR THE IMPACT THEY WILL HAVE ON THE RUNNING OF THE MINISTRIES CONCERNED. BUT THEY DO NOT REPRESENT FUNDAMENTAL SHIFT IN POLICY OR IN THE REGIONAL/ TRIBAL DISTRIBUTION OF POSTS. OF THOSE INVOLVED, ONLY TORI LIMANGANA IS A NORTHERNER. BUT HE IS NOT A FULANI SO HIS ELEVATION TO FULL MINISTERIAL RANK WILL NOT MATERIALLY CHANGE THE BALANCE BETWEEN NORTH AND SOUTH. LIMANGANA COMES FROM THE AREA CLOSE TO LAKE CHAD AND HIS TRIBE IS NOT A POWERFUL FACTOR IN THE REGIONAL EQUATION. WITH DONTSOP'S DEPARTURE IT WAS NECESSARY TO APPOINT A NEW BAMILEKE MINISTER OF STATE. AFTER DONTSOP THE NEXT SENIOR BAMILEKE WAS NGONGANG OUANDJI ANDRE AND HE WAS PROMOTED FROM MINISTER TO MINISTER OF STATE FOR YOUTH AND SPORT IN THE RESHUFFLE. wow!

3. THE FOUR WHO LEFT ARE IN DISGRACE. DOMBA WAS AN ASSOCIATE OF MOUSSA YAYA, HIS DEPARTURE SOONER OR LATER WAS INEVITABLE. DONTSOP NEVER SEEMED AT EASE IN FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND NTANG ALLOWED HIS MINISTRY TO STAGNATE. ENGO PROVIDED YEOMAN SERVICE AS VICE-MINISTER BUT FAILED TO MASTER THE WIDER RESPONSIBILITIES OF MINISTER OF ECONOMY AND PLAN. INEFFICIENCY AND LACK OF COORDINATION WERE MUCH IN EVIDENCE.

Positively devastating.

4. OF THE NEW APPOINTMENTS, THAT OF MBOG TO FOREIGN AFFAIRS IS DISAPPOINTING. HE IS TACITURN AND NOT OBVIOUSLY QUALIFIED FOR HIS NEW RESPONSIBILITIES. HOWEVER, HE HAS BEEN A LOYAL ASSOCIATE OF PRESIDENT BIYA. IF THE APPOINTMENT DEMONSTRATES ANYTHING IT IS THE CONCENTRATION OF FOREIGN POLICY MAKING WITHIN THE PRESIDENCY. NTSAMA WAS DIRECTOR GENERAL OF BIAO CAMEROON. HE BRINGS PRACTICAL EXPERIENCE OF BANKING TO HIS NEW MINISTRY. THE BANKING AND OIL COMMUNITY IN DOUALA HAVE HIGH HOPES OF NTSAMA'S APPOINTMENT. HE IS ENERGETIC. UNDER HIM THE MINISTRY MAY ADOPT A MORE DYNAMIC APPROACH GENERALLY AND A LESS CONSERVATIVE POLICY ON TAXATION. BOL ALIMA IS BILINGUAL AND OBTAINED A PHD AT LONDON UNIVERSITY IN 1978. HE WORKED CLOSELY WITH BOTH THE BRITISH COUNCIL AND THE AMERICANS DURING HIS TENURE AS DIRECTOR GENERAL AT THE UNIVERSITY CENTRE AT DSCHANG. HE SHOULD PROVIDE AN EXCELLENT INTERLOCUTER FOR DR VAUGHAN WHEN HE VISITS CAMEROON IN MAY. FOR THE REST, THEY ARE ALL COMPETENT TECHNOCRATS. ZAMBO IS A FELLOW TRIBESMAN OF PRESIDENT BIYA.

The what?!

CONFIDENTIAL

/5.

5. THE DIVISION OF THE MINISTRY OF ECONOMY AND PLAN WAS PERHAPS INEVITABLE. IT REQUIRED POLITICAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE SKILLS OF A HIGH ORDER TO MANAGE THE UNIFIED MINISTRY, MORE SO NOW THAT THE ECONOMY HAS DEVELOPED IN SIZE AND COMPLEXITY. THE DIVISION OF THE MINISTRY UNDER THE MANAGEMENT OF TWO RELATIVELY JUNIOR MINISTERS WILL ENHANCE THE ROLE OF THE PRIME MINISTER WHO NOW TAKES ON SOME OF THE COORDINATING ROLE WHICH PREVIOUSLY RESIDED IN THE MINISTRY OF ECONOMY AND PLAN.

6. THE CHANGES MAY WELL HAVE IMPLICATIONS FOR SOME OF THE AID PROJECTS UNDER CONSIDERATION, PARTICULARLY THOSE FAVOURED BY ENGO. THEY WILL ALSO COMPLICATE THE ARRANGEMENTS FOR DR VAUGHAN'S VISIT. Alas !

[COPIES SENT TO .....
EC EMBASSIES IN LONDON]

GUY

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NEWS D
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PS
PS/MRONSLOW
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SIR. J. LEAHY
MR SQUIRE
CABINET OFFICE

COPIES TO
DOT

COPIES SENT TO
No. 10 DOWNING STREET

THIS TELEGRAM
WAS NOT
ADVANCED

(4)

Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

14 March 1983

Prime Minister

A nice message.

AR 14/3.

Dear John,

Message from Ex-President Ahidjo of Cameroon

I attach a letter to the Prime Minister from ex-President Ahidjo, together with an unofficial translation. Although dated 16 December it was only transmitted to our Embassy in Yaounde at the end of February and has just reached us.

The letter is in response to the message from the Prime Minister to Ahidjo on his resignation in November last year. No reply is necessary.

Yours ever

John Holmes

(J E Holmes)
Private Secretary

A J Coles Esq
10 Downing Street

Cameroon Prime Minister 2

WM 31/12

Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

30 December 1982

A.J.C. 4/1

Dear John,

Letter from the President of Cameroon

I enclose a letter to the Prime Minister from the new President of Cameroon, M. Paul Biya (who succeeded President Ahidjo in November when the latter resigned).

As you will see, the subject is banal: an expression of gratitude for the UK's support for the Cameroon candidate as Deputy Secretary-General for the International Telecommunications Union. But it is of some interest that M. Biya chose to write himself. When President Ahidjo visited London officially in mid-April, M. Biya (then Prime Minister) stayed at home to mind the shop. But he has visited Britain on holiday several times in recent years - mainly to play golf at Gleneagles; and seems to attach importance to good relations with this country.

No acknowledgement is needed.

Yours ever,

(B J P Fall)
Private Secretary

A J Coles Esq
10 Downing Street

PARTI POLITIQUE
POLITICAL PARTY

UNION NATIONALE CAMEROUNAISE
CAMEROON NATIONAL UNION

COMITE CENTRAL
CENTRAL COMMITTEE

PRESIDENCE NATIONALE
NATIONAL PRESIDENCY

B. P./P. O. BOX 867 YAOUNDE

Yaoundé, le 16 décembre 1982
The

No ...../UNC/CC/PN
CNU/CC/NP

LE PRESIDENT NATIONAL
The National President

à Madame Margaret THATCHER
To
Premier Ministre Britannique

- LONDRES -

Madame le Premier Ministre,

J'ai été sensible au message que vous m'avez fait parvenir à la suite de ma démission des fonctions de Président de la République Unie du Cameroun et, de tout coeur, je vous remercie des mots élogieux, aimables et réconfortants que vous m'avez adressés en cette circonstance.

Je me félicite que mon départ de la Magistrature Suprême du Cameroun ait coïncidé avec l'intensification des liens d'amitié et de coopération entre la Grande Bretagne et le Cameroun, notamment après ma récente visite officielle dans votre beau pays, visite dont je garde encore un souvenir vivace et agréable.

Je suis persuadé que les relations entre nos deux pays continueront à se renforcer, tant sous votre impulsion personnelle que sous celle de mon Successeur, M. Paul BIYA, que je sais au demeurant disposé à y contribuer sans réserve.

Veuillez croire, Madame le Premier Ministre, à l'assurance de ma haute considération.

AHMADOU AHIDJO

Ancien Président de la République

Président National de l'Union Nationale Camerounaise.

Madame Margaret THATCHER
Premier Ministre Britannique

LONDRES

WORKING TRANSLATION

Dear Prime Minister,

I was touched by the message which you sent to me upon my resignation from the office of President of the United Republic of Cameroon and I thank you with all my heart for the kind and comforting words of praise which you addressed to me on that occasion.

I was pleased that my departure from the Supreme Office of the Cameroon coincided with the strengthening of the friendly and cooperative relations between Great Britain and Cameroon, especially after my recent official visit to your beautiful country, a visit of which I still have fond and lasting memories.

I feel sure that the relations between our two countries will continue to grow stronger, as much under your personal direction as under that of my successor M. Paul Biya, who is, I know, keen to contribute to them wholeheartedly.

Highest consideration

Cameroon
Apr '80
UK Relations

Cameroon (40)

Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

Prime Minister

A-J C 13/12

13 December 1982

Dear John,

Message from the Cameroonian President

We have received from our Embassy in Yaoundé the attached message from the new Cameroonian President, M Paul Biya, to the Prime Minister. This is in reply to her message of congratulation to him when he became President on 6 November.

/ I also attach an unofficial translation.

Yours ever

John Holmes

(J E Holmes)
Private Secretary

A J Coles Esq
10 Downing Street

VK Carranza Rdaha

SUBJECT

PRIME MINISTER'S
PERSONAL MESSAGE
SERIAL No. T 227 B/82

UNOFFICIAL TRANSLATION OF MESSAGE FROM M PAUL BIYA, PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF CAMEROON, TO THE PRIME MINISTER

cc master copy

Dear Prime Minister

It was with genuine pleasure that I received the message of congratulations which you were kind enough to send me on the occasion of my accession to the supreme office in my country, and I thank you sincerely for it. I should like to take this opportunity to express my pleasure at the excellent relations of friendship and cooperation that exist between Great Britain and Cameroon, relations based on a mutual respect and a convergence of ideals of peace, justice and equality. In view of this I should like to assure you of my determination to continue consolidating these relations in the interests of the British and Cameroonian people. Please accept the assurance of my highest consideration.

Paul Biya
President of the United Republic of Cameroon.

T227B/82

Le Président de la République
The President of the Republic

Yaoundé, le 1 DEC. 1982

N° A 275/CAB/PR

Madame le Premier Ministre,

C'est avec un plaisir revouvelé et une grande satisfaction que j'ai noté l'appui actif et décisif que la délégation de votre pays a bien voulu apporter à celle de la République Unie du Cameroun.

En effet, cet appui a permis l'élection de Monsieur Jean JIPGUEP au poste de Vice-Secrétaire Général de l'Union Internationale des Télécommunications dont la Conférence des Plénipotentiaires s'est tenue à NAIROBI du 28 Septembre au 6 Novembre dernier.

Tout en vous exprimant ma profonde reconnaissance pour votre geste plein de signification, je demeure persuadé que les relations qui unissent nos deux pays se renforceront davantage aussi bien au niveau bilatéral que dans les instances internationales auxquelles nous appartenons.

Veuillez croire, Madame le Premier Ministre, aux assurances de ma très haute considération./-

PAUL BIYA

REPUBLIQUE UNIE DU CAMEROUN
UNITED REPUBLIC OF CAMEROON
LE PRESIDENT
President of the Republic
PRESIDENCE DE LA REPUBLIQUE

S.E. MADAME MAGARET THATCHER
GRANDE-BRETAGNE - LONDRES

Cameroon

A.f.C. 24/11

f.a.

Ref. A082/0255

MR COLES

I attach copies of a self-explanatory exchange of letters which I have had with Lord Jellicoe.

2. I am sending a copy of this minute and of the correspondence to Mr Fall.

RTA

ROBERT ARMSTRONG

24 November 1982

PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL

CABINET OFFICE

70 Whitehall, London SW1A 2AS Telephone 01-233 8319

From the Secretary of the Cabinet: Sir Robert Armstrong KCB CVO

Ref. A082/0254 24 November 1982

Thank you very much for your letter of 18 November.

I am making sure that the message which the President of Cameroun asked you to convey to the Prime Minister is passed to her.

The Rt Hon The Earl Jellicoe DSO MC

PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL

THE RT HON EARL JELLICOE DSO MC

TELEPHONE 01-626 6525

SUGAR QUAY
LOWER THAMES STREET
LONDON EC3R 6DQ

To [illegible]

From the Chairman

18th November 1982

PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL

Sir Robert Armstrong KCB CVO
Secretary of the Cabinet
Cabinet Office
70 Whitehall
London SW1A 2AS

Dear Robert.

I paid a quick visit to the Ivory Coast and Cameroon last week, wearing my Tate & Lyle hat and accompanied by my Group Managing Director, Neil Shaw.

During our visit to Yaoundé our Ambassador, Bryan Sparrow, managed to arrange for us to be received by the new President. We were in fact the first foreigners to be received by him since he took over as President 10 days or so ago.

My only purpose in writing is to say that the President asked me to convey his warm good wishes to the Prime Minister and to thank her most warmly for the message which she sent him on his assumption of the Presidency.

Yours ever

George

JELLICOE

Subject

c/c Master
OP

T 211/82

RESTRICTED

34535 - 1

OO YAOUNDE

PRIME MINISTER'S
PERSONAL MESSAGE
SERIAL No. T 211/82

GRS 217
RESTRICTED
FM FCO 051530Z NOV 82
TO IMMEDIATE YAOUNDE
TELEGRAM NUMBER 155 OF 8 NOVEMBER 1982.
YOUR TELNO 223 : CHANGE OF PRESIDENT

1. PLEASE DELIVER THE FOLLOWING MESSAGES TO AHIDJO AND BIYA FROM THE PRIME MINISTER. WE LEAVE IT TO YOUR DISCRETION WHETHER YOU WISH MR SHAW TO BE ASSOCIATED WITH THEIR DELIVERY.

2. TO AHIDJO QUOTE : I HAVE LEARNED OF YOUR RESIGNATION WITH REGRET. YOUR WISE LEADERSHIP OF CAMEROON SINCE INDEPENDENCE HAS BEEN VERY MUCH ADMIRED IN THE UNITED KINGDOM AND HAS ENABLED THE RELATIONS BETWEEN OUR COUNTRIES TO DEVELOP AS CLOSELY AS THAY HAVE. I WAS PARTICULARLY PLEASED THAT YOU WERE ABLE TO VISIT LONDON AGAIN A FEW MONTHS AGO, AND HAVE VERY WARM MEMORIES OF OUR MEETING THEN. I AM ALSO MOST GRATEFUL FOR THE SUPPORT AND UNDERSTANDING THAT CAMEROON HAS SHOWN TO THE UNITED KINGDOM IN THE UNITED NATIONS AND ELSEWHERE OVER THE FALKLAND ISLANDS. I WISH YOU A PEACEFUL, HAPPY AND LONG RETIREMENT. MARGARET THATCHER. UNQUOTE.

3. TO BIYA QUITE : MAY I CONGRATULATE YOU UPON YOU ASSUMPTION OF THE PRESIDENCY. UNDER YOUR LEADERSHIP OF THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF CAMEROON, I LOOK FORWARD TO A CONTINUATION AND IF IT IS POSSIBLE, A STRENGTHENING OF THE VERY CORDIAL RELATIONSHIP AND CO-OPERATION WHICH EXISTED BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES UNDER YOUR DISTINGUISHED PREDECESSOR. MAGARET THATCHER. UNQUOTE.

PYM

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NNNN

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MR SQUIRE

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hle RM

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

8 November, 1982

RESIGNATION OF THE PRESIDENT
OF CAMEROON

Thank you for your letter of 5 November. The Prime Minister agrees that the proposed messages may be despatched to Mr. Ahidjo and to Mr. Biya.

A.J. COLES

R.B. Bone, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office

DSG

Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

5 November 1982

Prime Minister:
Subject to Mr Pyms views, agree to send messages?

TL
5/11

Yes

Dear John,

Resignation of the Cameroon President

You will perhaps have seen from Yaounde tel no 223 of 5 November (enclosed) that President Ahidjo of Cameroon has announced his resignation with effect from 6 November. The Presidency will be assumed by the Prime Minister, Paul Biya.

Ahidjo visited the UK in April when he had talks with the Prime Minister and was entertained to luncheon by her. His resignation has surprised everyone. After 22 years as Head of State it seems that he has decided to emulate the example of President Senghor of Senegal, hitherto unique in Africa, of retiring voluntarily with an orderly succession. Under Biya, our initial assessment is that Ahidjo's moderate, pragmatic policies will continue at least until the next Presidential elections in 1985.

The Prime Minister may wish to send messages to Ahidjo and to his successor. I enclose a draft telegram.

Mr Giles Shaw, Parliamentary Secretary in the DOE, to whom the telegram refers, is currently leading an export mission to Cameroon.

Mr Pym has not yet seen the enclosed draft: I shall be showing him a copy in his weekend box.

Temporarily retained 3/5/16 CWayland

Yours ever,

(R B Bone)
Private Secretary

A J Coles Esq
10 Downing Street

GP 225
RESTRICTED
FM YAOUNDE 050850Z NOV 82
TO IMMEDIATE FCO
TELEGRAM NUMBER 223 OF 5 NOVEMBER
AND TO IMMEDIATE LAGOS

MIPT

1. PRESIDENT AHIDJO'S ANNOUNCEMENT OF HIS RESIGNATION LAST NIGHT CAME OUT OF THE BLUE AND HAS LEFT EVERYONE STUNNED. ALTHOUGH THERE HAD BEEN OCCASIONAL UNSUBSTANTIATED RUMOURS THAT HE WAS TIRED AND WOULD NOT SEEK RE-ELECTION IN 1985, NO-ONE BELIEVED THEM AND THERE HAD BEEN NO HINT OF ANY MAJOR ILLNESS. MINISTERS DINING AT THE RESIDENCE LAST NIGHT WERE AS SURPRISED AS THE REST OF US AND HAD ONLY HEARD THE NEWS ON THE RADIO.
2. AS PLANNED IN CONSTITUTIONAL CHANGES TWO YEARS AGO, THE PRIME MINISTER WILL TAKE OVER THE PRESIDENCY AND REMAIN IN THAT OFFICE FOR THE REMAINDER OF AHIDJO'S TERM.
3. FOR THE MOMENT WE ARE ASSUMING THAT THE ADMINISTRATION WILL CARRY ON AS NORMAL AND THAT MR SHAW WILL BE ABLE TO CARRY OUT HIS PROGRAMME AS ORIGINALLY PLANNED.

SPARROW

COPIES SENT TO
No. 10 DOWNING STREET

STANDARD
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OUT TELEGRAM

Classification and Caveats	Precedence/Deskby
RESTRICTED	IMMEDIATE

ZCZC
GRS
CLASS
CAVEATS
DESKBY
FM FCO
PRE/ADD
TEL NO

ZCZC
GRS
RESTRICTED

FM FCO 051530Z NOV 82
TO IMMEDIATE YAOUNDE
TELEGRAM NUMBER
YOUR TELNO 223 : CHANGE OF PRESIDENT

1. Please deliver the following messages to Ahidjo and Biya from the Prime Minister. We leave it to your discretion whether you wish Mr Shaw to be associated with their delivery.

2. To Ahidjo Quote : I have learned of your resignation with regret. Your wise leadership of Cameroon since Independence has been very much admired in the United Kingdom and has enabled the relations between our countries to develop as closely as thay have. I was particularly pleased that you were able to visit London again a few months ago, and have very warm memories of our meeting then. I am also most grateful for the support and understanding that Cameroon has shown to the United Kingdom in the United Nations and elsewhere over the Falkland Islands. I wish you a peaceful, happy and long retirement. Margaret Thatcher. Unquote.

3. To Biya Quite : May I congratulate you upon you assumption of the Presidency. Under your leadership of the United Republic

NNNN ends telegram	BLANK	Catchword of Cameroon
File number	Dept WAD	Distribution Limited WAD PCD News Dept PS PS/Mr Onslow PS/PUS Sir J Leahy Mr Squire. cc. No 10 Downing St Buckingham Palace
Drafted by (Block capitals) R A PULLEN		
Telephone number 233 5274		
Authorised for despatch		
Comcen reference	Time of despatch	

XY 48

Classification		Page
RESTRICTED		2

<<<<

of Cameroon, I look forward to a continuation and if it is possible, a strengthening of the very cordial relationship and co-operation which existed between our two countries under your distinguished predecessor. Magaret Thatcher. Unquote.

PYM

NNNN

NNNN ends telegram	BLANK	Catchword

B

cc FCO.

SUBJECT

cc Media
cps

10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

22 April 1982

PRIME MINISTER'S
PERSONAL MESSAGE
SERIAL No. T 81/82

Dear Mr. President,

Thank you for your kind letter of 15 March, in which you extended an invitation to Baroness Young to attend the ceremonies marking the tenth anniversary of the United Republic of Cameroon from 17 to 20 May.

Following some changes in responsibilities within the Government, the Minister for the Arts is now Mr. Paul Channon, MP. I have asked him to represent the British Government at the ceremonies next month as a mark of the close relations existing between our two countries.

I greatly enjoyed seeing you at No. 10 yesterday and hope that the rest of your visit here will be thoroughly rewarding.

Yours sincerely

Margaret Thatcher

His Excellency El Hadj Ahmadou Ahidjo, G.C.M.G.

HL

Cameroon

Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

21 April 1982

Type letter pl.

DR 24/4.

Dear John,

Celebration of the Tenth Anniversary of the United Republic of Cameroon

I enclose a self-explanatory draft reply to President Ahidjo's letter of 15 March, as requested in your letter of 23 March: I much regret the delay in its submission.

After discussion with Jim Buckley, we have decided that it would be more appropriate for HMG to be represented on this occasion by the Minister for the Arts, and that in view of the importance we attach to developing our relations with Cameroon (a prosperous and stable country), the FCO should pay for the visit.

I am copying this letter to Mary Giles.

Yours ever,

Francis Richards

(F N Richards)
Private Secretary

A J Coles Esq
10 Downing St

Registry No.

SECURITY CLASSIFICATION

Top Secret,
Secret.
Confidential.
Restricted.
Unclassified.

PRIVACY MARKING

..... In Confidence

DSR 11

DRAFT LETTER

Type 1 +

From

Telephone No. Ext.

Department

To:–

His Excellency Ahmadou Ahidjo GCMG
President of the United Republic of Cameroon
c/o His Excellency M Benoit Bindzi
Embassy of the United Republic of Cameroon
84 Holland Park, London W11 3SB

Thank you for your kind letter of 15 March, in which you extended an invitation to Baroness Young to attend the ceremonies marking the tenth anniversary of the United Republic of Cameroon from 17 to 20 May.

Following some changes in responsibilities within the Government, the Minister for the Arts is now Mr Paul Channon MP. I have asked him to represent the British Government at the ceremonies next month as a mark of the close relations existing between our two countries.

~~May I add how much I am looking forward to meeting you in a few days' time.~~ I greatly enjoyed seeing you at No. 10 yesterday and hope that the rest of your visit here will be thoroughly rewarding.

MT 24/4

Dd 0532000 800M 5/78 HMSO Bracknell

FILE SW
Cameroon

BK

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

23 March, 1982

Cameroon: Celebrations of the Tenth Anniversary of the Foundation of the Republic

I enclose a copy of a letter which the Prime Minister has received from the President of Cameroon describing the arrangements which are being made to celebrate the above event and inviting the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster to take part in the ceremonies from 17-20 May.

I should be grateful if, in consultation with Jim Buckley, you could let me have a draft reply for signature by the Prime Minister.

A copy of this letter and the enclosure goes to Jim Buckley.

A. J. COLES

BK

F. N. Richards, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office

SUBJECT
cc Martin
ops

PRIME MINISTER'S
PERSONAL MESSAGE
SERIAL No. T48A/82

République Unie du Cameroun

23

Le Président
de la République
N° A2/CAB/PR.-

Yaoundé, le 15 MARS 1982

MADAME LE PREMIER MINISTRE,

J'ai l'honneur de porter à votre connaissance que le Gouvernement Camerounais a décidé de célébrer en Mai prochain le Xè Anniversaire de la Fondation de la République Unie du Cameroun qui a été instituée le 20 Mai 1972.

Cet événement sera fêté avec éclat dans le cadre d'une semaine culturelle nationale qui ira du 13 au 20 Mai 1982 et à laquelle j'entends associer les hauts responsables de la Culture des Etats avec lesquels le Cameroun entretient des liens d'amitié et de coopération.

Aussi ai-je le plaisir d'inviter Madame La Baronne

S.E. MARGARET THATCHER
PREMIER MINISTRE DE GRANDE-BRETAGNE
- LONDRES -

...../.....

YOUNG, Chancelor of the Duchy of Lancaster qui est chargée des problèmes des arts dans votre Gouvernement à prendre part, du 17 au 20 Mai prochain, aux cérémonies prévues à cette occasion.

Je vous prie de croire, MADAME LE PREMIER MINISTRE, à l'assurance de ma très haute considération./-

REPUBLIQUE UNIE DU CAMEROUN
UNITED REPUBLIC OF CAMEROON
LE PRESIDENT
President of the Republic
PRESIDENCE DE LA REPUBLIQUE

AHMADOU AHIDJO

R H

Cameron

6 March, 1981

In the absence of the Prime Minister who is today on an official visit to Northern Ireland, I am writing to thank you most sincerely for your beautiful and generous gift of two ivory figures. The Prime Minister will be absolutely delighted with these and I know would wish me to send you her sincere thanks and best wishes.

CAROLINE STEPHENS

M. Solomon Tandeng Muna

AS

SOLOMON TANDENG MUNA

President of the National Assembly
United Republic of Cameroon,
ACP-EEC Co-President of the
Consultative Assembly

Adress : National Assembly Yaounde Cameroon

TELEPHONE

Cabinet 22-20-44 Secretariat 22-24-55

Telex : 8182 KN.

Cameroon.

Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

3 March 1981

Signed autograph book returned to FCO 1920 hrs 6/3 SP.

Dear Alexander,

Mr Luce gave a lunch on 2 March for HE Saloman Tandeng Muna, President of the National Assembly of Cameroon, who is here on a COI sponsored visit. Mr Tandeng Muna said he was very sorry not to be able to meet the Prime Minister during his visit and Mr Luce explained why this had not been possible.

Mr Tandeng Muna is a collector of autographs and has asked whether the Prime Minister would kindly agree to add hers to his collection. I enclose his autograph book.

Mr Tandeng Muna also told Mr Luce that he had brought with him a present for the Prime Minister. I understand this will be forwarded soon.

Mr Tandeng Muna leaves the UK on 7 March. I should be grateful if the autograph book could be returned to me by noon on 6 March.

Yours ever,

Martin Rickard

M J K Rickard
Assistant Private Secretary
to Mr Luce

M O'D B Alexander Esq
10 Downing Street
LONDON SW1

Cameroon

Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

17 September 1980

Prime Minister

(2)

MFA

Dear Michael,

Reply to Prime Minister's message upon re-election of President of Cameroon

I enclose a message dated 16 August from President Ahidjo of Cameroon, in response to the Prime Minister's message of congratulation sent in April on the occasion of the President's re-election for a fifth five-year term of office.

Yours ever

Roderic Lyne

(R M J Lyne)
Private Secretary

Michael Alexander Esq
10 Downing Street
London

subject

PRIME MINISTER'S
PERSONAL MESSAGE
SERIAL No. T1632/80

T1632/80

N° 828/DIPL/SACCI/5.-

Le Ministère des Affaires Etrangères de la République Unie du Cameroun présente ses compliments à l'Ambassade de Grande Bretagne à Yaoundé, et a l'honneur de lui demander de bien vouloir transmettre à la Très Honorable Madame Margaret THATCHER, Premier Ministre Britanique, le message suivant du Chef de l'Etat Camerounais.

"J'AI ETE TRES SENSIBLE AU MESSAGE DE FELICITATION QUE VOUS AVEZ BIEN VOULU M'ADRESSER A L'OCCASION DE MA REELECTION A LA MAGISTRATURE SUPREME DE MON PAYS. VOUS EN REMERCIANT SINCEREMENT, JE VOUS PRIE D'ACCEPTER EN RETOUR LES VOEUX QUE JE FORME POUR VOTRE SANTE ET POUR LE BONHEUR DE VOS COMPATRIOTES.

AHMADOU AHIDJO, PRESIDENT DE LA REPUBLIQUE UNIE DU CAMEROUN."

Le Ministère des Affaires Etrangères de la République Unie du Cameroun saisit cette occasion pour renouveler à l'Ambassade de Grande Bretagne, les assurances de sa très haute considération./-

AMBASSADE DE GRANDE BRETAGNE

- YAOUNDE -

YAOUNDE, le 16 AOUT 1980

Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Ministère des Affaires Etrangères

[Rec'd. Br. Embassy Yaounde on 29 Aug. 1980]

T9, AA/80

SUBJECT

Cameron

25176

PRIME MINISTER'S
PERSONAL MESSAGE
SERIAL No. T9, AA/80

GRS 73.

RESTRICTED

FM FCO 230930Z APRIL 80

TO IMMEDIATE YAOUNDE

TELEGRAM NUMBER 52 OF 23 APRIL 1980

1. UNLESS YOU SEE OBJECTION PLEASE PASS THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE FROM THE PRIME MINISTER TO PRESIDENT AHIDJO FOLLOWING HIS RE-ELECTION.

2. QUOTE I WAS VERY GLAD TO HEAR OF YOUR RE-ELECTION AS PRESIDENT OF YOUR COUNTRY. I SHOULD LIKE TO CONVEY MY CONGRATULATIONS AND BEST WISHES ON THIS SPECIAL OCCASION. WARM REGARDS. MARGARET THATCHER. UNQUOTE

CARRINGTON

FILES

WAD

PCD

File

DS

Cameroon

B/Lardbury
Tel to Yaounde
to 'T'

15 April 1980

Message to President Ahidjo

Michael Richardson enclosed with his letter to me of 9 April a draft message of congratulations from the Prime Minister to President Ahidjo of Cameroon on his re-election as President. The Prime Minister has approved the message and I should be grateful if you could arrange for its despatch.

I am sending a copy of this letter to Michael Richardson (Lord Privy Seal's Office).

M. O'D. B. ALEXANDER

Roderic Lyne, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

Prime Minister

Agree we should send this message?

Yes MT 10/4

9 April 1980

Dear Michael

President Ahidjo of Cameroon was re-elected on 5 April for his fifth five-year term of office. He was the only candidate.

The Lord Privy Seal considers that it would be a welcome and encouraging gesture for the Prime Minister to agree to send a short message of congratulation and I enclose a draft telegram. President Ahidjo's firm government sets an example of moderation in the region. He has been helpful over Rhodesia. The country's resources of oil and natural gas make it a market of relatively high potential for British exporters and we are working hard to increase the British share.

Yours ever

Michael

M J Richardson
PS/Lord Privy Seal

M O'D B Alexander Esq
10 Downing Street

1475(H) M8S 427223 400M 5/77 A.G. 3640/4

XY 42

File No. .....

Department WAD

Drafted by (Block Capitals) R S DEWAR

Tel. Extn. 233 5274

OUTWARD TELEGRAM

Security Classification: RESTRICTED

Precedence: PRIORITY

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FOR COMMS. DEPT. USE

Despatched (Date) ..... (Time) .....Z

POSTBY .....Z

PREAMBLE

(Time of Origin) .....Z(G.M.T.)

(Security Class.) RESTRICTED

(Codeword) .....

(Restrictive Prefix) .....

(Caveat/ Privacy Marking) .....

(Deskby) .....Z

TO PRIORITY (precedence) YAOUNDE (post) Tel. No. ..... of .....

AND TO (precedence/post) .....

AND SAVING TO .....

REPEATED TO (for info) .....

SAVING TO (for info) .....

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WAD
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[TEXT]

1. Please pass the following message from the Prime Minister to President Ahidjo after his re-election.

2.''I was very glad to hear of your re-election as President of your country. I should like to convey my congratulations and best wishes on this special occasion. Warm regards, Margaret Thatcher''.

Grey Scale #13

C Y M

A 1 2 3 4 5 6 M 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 B 17 18 19

Inches 1 2 3

Centimetres 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8

Colour Chart #13

Blue Cyan Green Yellow