

CONFIDENTIAL

# 10 DOWNING STREET

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FILE TITLE: <i>Relations / Internal Sit</i>		SERIES  <i>CAMEROON</i>
		PART:  <i>2</i>
PART BEGINS:  <i>April 1988</i>	PART ENDS:  <i>DECEMBER 1994</i>	CAB ONE:

~~Part Closed~~

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*PREM 19/4584*

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**PART**

**CLOSED**



10 DOWNING STREET  
LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Private Secretary

*File KIC*  
*No Act* 17 November 1994

I enclose a copy of a letter which the Prime Minister has received from Chief Anyaoku.

I should be grateful if you would provide advice and a draft reply, if you judge one necessary, from the Prime Minister to Chief Anyaoku.

**MS PHILIPPA LESLIE-JONES**

S. J. Sharpe, Esq.,  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

*hc*

OFFICE OF THE COMMONWEALTH SECRETARY - GENERAL  
MARLBOROUGH HOUSE · PALL MALL · LONDON SW1Y 5HX

15 November 1994

Dear Prime Minister

In the light of the decision taken by Heads of Government in Cyprus on the question of Cameroon's membership of the Commonwealth, and following our brief conversation last Sunday, I thought I should bring to your attention the attached letter from President Biya which was delivered to me last week by a ministerial delegation from Cameroon. This matter is expected to come up for discussion at the forthcoming Senior Officials Meeting in Islamabad when, as we prepare for the Auckland CHOGM, the further advice of governments will be helpful.

With deep respect  
Yours Sincerely  
Emeka

Emeka Anyaoku

The Rt. Hon. John Major MP  
Prime Minister of the United Kingdom  
of Great Britain and Northern Ireland  
10 Downing Street  
LONDON SW1

Attachment:



*Republic of Cameroon*

*The President  
of the Republic*

Yaounde, the - 3 OCT. 1994

N° A 565/CAB/PR

Dear Secretary-General,

Following your letter of 08 November 1993 informing me of the decision taken by Heads of Government at Limassol (Cyprus) to welcome Cameroon at the next Commonwealth Summit in 1995, I am pleased to inform you of actions so far taken to reinforce the democratisation process in the Country.

I do so in the belief that this would demonstrate to you and the Commonwealth at large, my Country's resolve to establish a genuine democratic system consonant with the deep aspirations of Cameroonians while, at the same time, maintaining social peace and stability.

In the area of Human Rights, there is now a multiplicity of private human rights watch groups along side the Government National Human Rights Commission (NHRC). Both have issued reports highly critical of private and public human rights abuses, leading to meaningful corrective measures being taken including penalising identified perpetrators. In addition, the NHRC has organised educative seminars on human rights awareness targeting the general public, the Security Services and public administrators.

H. E. CHIEF EMEKA ANYAOKU  
COMMONWEALTH SECRETARY - GENERAL  
MALBOROUGH HOUSE  
PALL MALL

L O N D O N      S W I Y      S H X

...

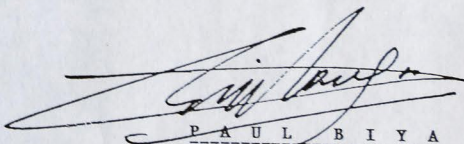
Turning to democratisation, Cameroon is currently working out practical modalities towards concluding the constitutional reform process in keeping with popular demands. The existence of over 100 political parties, the revamping of voters' registers, Steps being taken to ensure the separation of powers, all bear witness to Cameroon's Commitment to strengthen its democratisation.

As for Press Freedoms, the Government has recently organised a National Communications Forum with participants drawn from both the over 50 private press organs and the public sector as well as from foreign countries and international Organisations. The conclusions of this Forum aimed at charting a new framework for communications within the renewed political dispensation, are presently being examined with a view to revising Government policy on Communications.

Mr Secretary - General, as you can see from the foregoing, Cameroon, without being perfect, is taking determined steps towards putting in place a truly democratic system. We therefore think that Cameroon's admission into the Commonwealth of Nations would certainly go a long way towards giving our Country and peoples the necessary encouragement in its drive towards democratisation and development.

I take this occasion to thank you and individual Heads of Government of Commonwealth Countries for the steps you would be taking towards welcoming Cameroon as a full member of the Commonwealth family before or at the next CHOGM in Wellington, New-Zealand.

Yours sincerely,



P A U L B I Y A



10 DOWNING STREET  
LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Private Secretary

No Ack 3 November 1994

I enclose a copy of a letter which the Prime Minister has received from the President of the Republic of Cameroon, M. Paul Biya.

Subject to your views, I do not think the letter requires a reply.

I am copying this letter to Ian McKendry (Overseas Development Administration).

**MS PHILIPPA LESLIE-JONES**

S. J. Sharpe, Esq.,  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

172



412

**ODA**

Overseas Development  
Administration

94 Victoria Street, London SW1E 5JL

Telephone 071-917 0419

*From The Private Secretary*

Philipa Leslie-Jones  
10 Downing Street  
London SW1A 2AA

3 November 1994

*Ms Leslie-Jones*

... Lady Chalker recently met Cameroon's Deputy Foreign Minister, who personally handed the attached letter to her.

*Yours sincerely*

*IMK*

Ian McKendry  
Private Secretary to Baroness Chalker of Wallasey

PEACE - WORK - FATHERLAND



SUBJECT  
MASTER

Filed on:

## Republic of Cameroon

*The President  
of the Republic*

Yaounde, the 31 OCT. 1994

Dear Prime Minister,

It gives me great pleasure to introduce to you, as my trusted envoy, Mr. Francis NKWAIN, Minister Delegate at the Cameroon Ministry of External Relations.

You will no doubt recall, Prime Minister, that the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting of Limassol, Cyprus, 1993, decided to welcome Cameroon as a full member of the Organization at the 1995 summit in New Zealand provided that Cameroon will have reinforced its democratisation process.

It is in this regard that I have requested Mr. Francis NKWAIN to brief you on steps taken, or envisaged, in keeping with the wishes of the great majority of our people, to enhance the democratisation process in Cameroon.

I entreat you to receive him with your characteristic warmth and hospitality, to have faith in, and give credence to all that he will relate to you on my behalf, particularly when he pleads with you, Prime Minister, to use your good standing to prevail upon your peers to take urgent steps to welcome Cameroon into full membership of the Commonwealth family before or at the next CHOGM in New Zealand.

Please accept Prime Minister, the assurances of my highest esteem and of the sincere feelings that the people of Cameroon and I have in the friendly people of New Zealand and in You.

Yours sincerely,

PAUL BIYA

THE RIGHT HONORABLE John MAJOR  
PRIME MINISTER OF GREAT BRITAIN  
AND NORTHERN IRELAND

LONDON

**SUBJECT  
MASTER**

**Filed on:**



10 DOWNING STREET  
LONDON SW1A 2AA

THE PRIME MINISTER

2 November 1993

file  
L Biya. mem  
cc fca

*Your Excellency,*

Thank you for your letter of 6 October about Cameroon's application to join the Commonwealth. I was glad that your Foreign Minister, Francis Nkwain, was able to brief Lynda Chalker in London about the latest developments in Cameroon before Commonwealth Heads of Government met in Limassol.

As I am sure you will already have learned, the decision reached by consensus at our meeting was to welcome Cameroon to our next Heads of Government meeting in 1995, and into membership of the Commonwealth at that time, provided that your efforts to establish a democratic system, consistent with the Harare Commonwealth Declaration, had by then been completed.

I am conscious of Cameroon's historic links with Britain and of her potential to play a positive role in Commonwealth cooperation. I look forward confidently to Cameroon's full entry into the Commonwealth.

*Yours Sincerely,  
John Major*

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

224



Foreign &  
Commonwealth  
Office

London SW1A 2AH

28 October 1993

(T)

Dear Robert,

*Here* Letter from the President of Cameroon

President Biya wrote to the Prime Minister on 6 October in support of Cameroon's application to join the Commonwealth.

We achieved our objective at CHOGM and secured conditional acceptance of Cameroon's application, provided that its efforts to establish a democratic system, consistent with the Harare Declaration, had been completed before the 1995 CHOGM in New Zealand. It will be for Chief Anyaoku to inform President Biya of the CHOGM decision. But it would be helpful if the Prime Minister replied to President Biya, to make clear our own position.

I enclose a draft letter for the Prime Minister's signature.

*Yours ever,*  
*Stephen*

(J S Smith)  
Private Secretary

Roderic Lyne Esq CMG  
10 Downing Street

DRAFT LETTER FROM THE PRIME MINISTER

to: His Excellency President Paul Biya  
President of the Republic of Cameroon

Thank you for your letter of 6 October about Cameroon's application to join the Commonwealth. I was glad that your Foreign Minister, Francis Nkwain, was able to brief Lynda Chalker in London about the latest developments in Cameroon before Commonwealth Heads of Government met in Limassol.

As I am sure you will already have learned, the decision reached by consensus at our meeting was to welcome Cameroon to our next Heads of Government meeting in 1995, and into membership of the Commonwealth at that time, provided that your efforts to establish a democratic system, consistent with the Harare Commonwealth Declaration, had by then been completed.

I am conscious of Cameroon's historic links with Britain and of her potential to play a positive role in Commonwealth cooperation. I look forward confidently to Cameroon's full entry into the Commonwealth.





Nbrm

CCPS/FCO

ODA LAB

Overseas Development  
Administration

94 Victoria Street, London SW1E 5JL

Telephone 071-9170409

From The Private Secretary

Rod Lyne Esq  
Private Secretary  
10 Downing Street  
London SW1A 2AS

14 October 1993

Dear Rod,

LETTER TO THE PRIME MINISTER FROM THE PRESIDENT OF CAMEROON

... I enclose a letter to the Prime Minister from President Biya of Cameroon which was handed to Baroness Chalker at a meeting with the Cameroonian Deputy Foreign Minister, Mr Nkwain, on 12 October.

We will provide advice and a draft reply shortly. I am copying this letter to Stephen Smith in the Foreign Secretary's office.

Helen Noble

Helen Noble  
Assistant Private Secretary to Baroness Chalker



PEACE - WORK - FATHERLAND



SUBJECT  
MASTER

Filed on:

*Republic of Cameroon*

*The President  
of the Republic*

N° A 565/CAB/PR.\_

- 6 OCT. 1993

*Yaounde, the* \_\_\_\_\_

Mister Prime Minister,

I am writing to You with respect to Cameroon's application for admission into the Commonwealth of Nations and also with a view to reaffirming the friendly relations between our two Countries.

In this regard, I am sending Mr Francis NKWAIN, Minister Delegate at the Ministry of External Relations to brief You on the various steps so far taken with a view to ensuring Cameroon's admission into the Commonwealth of Nations as well as strengthening the friendly relations between our two Countries.

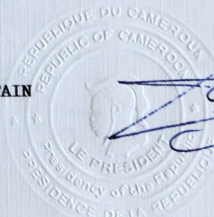
In the process, he will assure You that Cameroonians are massively in support of their Country's application for admission into the Commonwealth and that they count on You to graciously use Your good offices and personal esteem to bring Your fellow Heads of State and Governments to support and favorably consider Cameroon's membership application into the Commonwealth.

He would equally appraise with Your Government ways and means of reinforcing the friendly relations of cooperation and mutual understanding that so happily exist between our two Countries.

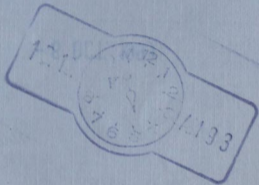
Please accept, Mister Prime Minister, the assurances of my highest consideration and personal esteem./-

H. E. JOHN MAJOR  
PRIME MINISTER OF GREAT BRITAIN

L O N D O N



*Paul Biya*  
PAUL BIYA



NO DEFAY

RET 2 AM

12 30 US

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Fl Cameroon - Etm



cc FCO  
REB

10 DOWNING STREET  
LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Private Secretary

14 October 1993

**CAMEROON'S APPLICATION FOR COMMONWEALTH  
MEMBERSHIP**

Thank you for your letter of 11 October, and for the further helpful background on Cameroon's application.

Having seen your letter, the Prime Minister has now signed the reply to the Secretary General. I enclose a copy. I shall hand the top copy to Chief Anyaoku when he calls on the Prime Minister this evening.

You will now wish to give further thought to tactical handling of this question at Limassol. It would obviously suit us to avoid an open row there. If, as your letter says, Canada is the only Commonwealth member pressing hard for Cameroon's immediate membership, would it be wise to give the Canadians advance briefing on the line we are taking, and trying to persuade them to ease off? Are there other countries which might be recruited to our side of the argument.

**RODERIC LYNE**

J S Smith Esq  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office

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KW



10 DOWNING STREET  
LONDON SW1A 2AA

THE PRIME MINISTER

14 October 1993

Dear Eneke,

Thank you for your letter of 5 July. I am grateful for your assessment of developments in Cameroon.

It is gratifying that there is strong support for Commonwealth Membership among both the Francophone and Anglophone communities in Cameroon.

I believe that, at the forthcoming Heads of Government meeting, the Commonwealth should make clear that it looks forward, in principle, to welcoming Cameroon as a member. However at our last meeting in Harare, we agreed that membership of the Commonwealth could only follow implementation of the principles set out in the Harare Declaration. It is far from clear that this is yet the case in Cameroon. The last Presidential election, held less than a year ago, was judged by international observers not to have been free and fair. Accusations of human rights abuses by the security forces remain uninvestigated or are dealt with only by military tribunals. There is press censorship and the Human Rights Commission has received none of the funds promised by Government. Above all, the present constitution is generally agreed to be autocratic and lacking in respect for the rights of minorities. Before Cameroon can be accepted as a member of the Commonwealth, we must see substantive progress on democratisation and a clear improvement in the handling of human rights in Cameroon.

MEM  
cc FLO  
RS

9

I recognise that many of these issues are now being addressed in Cameroon, and a debate has started over ways in which there can be further progress on democratisation. My concern, however, is that the debate has only just begun and it is far from clear that the outcome will be generally acceptable to Cameroonians as a whole.

I do not, therefore, see how we can reach a definitive conclusion on this application before we know the outcome of the debate over constitutional reform within Cameroon itself, and without a clearer picture of the extent to which Cameroon has satisfied the criteria in the Harare Declaration. We need a more detailed assessment on the extent to which Cameroon meets these criteria than is now available.

I recognise the arguments against an outright rejection or simply postponing the issue yet again until the next CHOGM. However, we must find a formula which strengthens the Commonwealth's commitment to good government as expressed in Harare. I could therefore agree to welcome Cameroon to the 1995 CHOGM provided that further progress had been recorded by then on a new constitution and human rights. This will require some form of mechanism for assessing whether sufficient progress has been made. My own view is that much the most sensible arrangement would be, as you had suggested earlier this year, to send a Commonwealth mission to visit Cameroon at the appropriate time and to submit a report; but I would be willing to look at any other suggestions you may have.

His Excellency Chief Emeka Anyaoku, CON

Yours Sincerely,  
John Major



10 DOWNING STREET

Prime Minister

A further, repeated  
justification of the FCO's  
position on Cameroon.

The Vanuatu / Mauritius /  
Seychelles analogy is a  
fairly strong point.

If you are content  
now to sign the letter,  
I can give it to Anyaoku  
before the meeting.

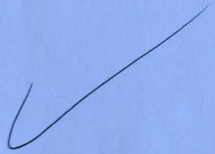
Rodrik

RESTRICTED



cc fb

11 October 1993



*Dear Rodric,*

Application from Cameroon for Commonwealth Membership

Thank you for your letter of 1 October <sup>has</sup> in which you asked for further advice about Cameroon's application.

The Foreign Secretary ~~shares~~ shares the Prime Minister's concerns about Cameroon's human rights performance as measured against the Harare Declaration. In recent weeks there have been examples of harassment, and some arrests, of opposition party activists by the gendarmerie, and the Governor of South West Province has banned all political meetings throughout October. There is still no progress on constitutional reform. My letter of 24 September described why we believe these concerns are best tackled by a conditional acceptance of Cameroon's application.

We have no reason to believe that Cameroon should be ruled out on the grounds of its inability to participate fully in the Commonwealth. The (largely Francophone) leadership seem genuinely intent on seeking an opening into the Anglo-Saxon world, perhaps conscious of the limitations of simply being part of the French sphere of influence in Africa, and despite likely French chagrin at Cameroon becoming a member of the Commonwealth. Moreover, the Anglophones represent a substantial proportion (20%) of the Cameroon population, 2½ million strong, that is more than the total population of many Commonwealth countries. They lived for nearly three generations under British administration, from 1922 to 1961, first under the League of Nations Mandate, and then under a UN Trusteeship. An example of the historical link is the 5000 surviving servicemen, who served the Crown in the period 1939 to 1961, in operations as far afield as Burma and North Africa. The South and North West Provinces of

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Cameroon have retained the British education and legal system, British administrative structures, and close links with Britain. They would thus be well placed to benefit from and participate fully in many areas of Commonwealth cooperation.

There are analogies not only with Canada but also with Vanuatu, Mauritius and Seychelles, all of whom also have a strong Francophone tradition. Indeed Mauritius is hosting the Francophonie summit, immediately before CHOGM. None of these members of the Commonwealth have had difficulty entering into the spirit of the Commonwealth and within Cameroon there is clearly a strong desire for membership in both the Anglophone and Francophone communities. Membership would be beneficial in terms of encouraging good government, and making the Anglophones feel more a part of the Republic of Cameroon. Conversely, a rebuff at Limassol could set back the cause of pluralism and human rights, and encourage secessionist extremists.

The only Commonwealth member pressing hard for Cameroon's immediate membership is Canada, because of the Quebec lobby. But those other members who have expressed their views generally support membership. Some (eg Ghana) have argued that membership would allow the Commonwealth to exercise greater influence over Cameroon's behaviour, but may yet be persuaded by the line that we can exert effective leverage by making entry conditional on further progress. It is unlikely that we would be could muster a consensus - or even a majority - in favour of rejection. African members are likely to be particularly sensitive to the negative consequences in Cameroon if the application received a rebuff.

Deferral of Cameroon's application without a decision (as happened in Harare) is also unlikely to enjoy wide support. And it would provide us with less leverage than conditional acceptance.

The Commonwealth Secretary General continues to favour immediate and unconditional membership, and opposes a further Commonwealth mission to Cameroon. It would therefore be particularly helpful if the Prime Minister could give Chief Anyaoku a firm steer on our thinking, and the outcome we would like from Limassol, at his meeting on 14 October.

The Foreign Secretary therefore continues to recommend that while we should continue to oppose any immediate membership, we should be prepared to agree at Limassol that Cameroon may in principle be admitted at the following CHOGM, provided that it had shown by then that it had made genuine progress towards a democratic system of government acceptable to its people and made specific improvements in human rights. If in 2 years time Cameroon has not in our view made enough progress, we could argue for a further delay in its membership at that time. We should avoid language which committed the Commonwealth now to accepting Cameroonian membership in 1995.

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We should continue to express our strong preference for a mission of enquiry to assess Cameroon's progress. It would of course be essential to have as much influence as possible over the mission's report, and the best way to achieve that would be to include a British representative, as you suggest.

*Yours ever,*

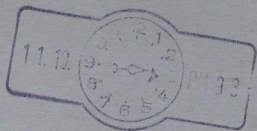
*J S Smith*

(J S Smith)

Private Secretary

Roderic Lyne Esq CMG  
10 Downing Street

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10 DOWNING STREET  
LONDON SW1A 2AA

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ack B

From the Private Secretary

1 October 1993

*Jean Stephen,*

**APPLICATION FROM CAMEROON FOR COMMONWEALTH  
MEMBERSHIP**

Thank you for your letter of 24 September. I am sorry that I was not able to send you a reply before the Foreign Secretary's meeting with the Commonwealth Secretary General in New York.

The Prime Minister is half-persuaded that he should write to the Secretary General in terms of your draft. However, he is still concerned both about the poor human rights record of Cameroon and about whether it would really make sense to bring a Francophone country (the first such) into the Commonwealth. Do we believe that, even after meeting the Harare criteria, Cameroon would enter wholeheartedly into the spirit of the Commonwealth? How substantial and influential is the Anglophone minority in Cameroon? How strong are its connections with Britain and other Commonwealth countries? Can we reasonably draw an analogy with, say, Canada (albeit with the language split reversed)?

The Prime Minister would also like to know how strongly other Commonwealth countries favour Cameroon's membership. He doubts if we should die in the ditch to keep Cameroon out, if all other countries pressed strongly for admission once the criteria were satisfied. But if the Commonwealth majority is lukewarm or indifferent, the Prime Minister might well favour deferring a decision at this CHOGM, rather than taking a conditional decision in favour of admission as proposed in your letter.

I would be grateful for your further advice on these points in the course of next week. It is possible that the Prime Minister will then wish to discuss the matter with the Secretary General when the latter makes his traditional pre-CHOGM call at No 10.

R

If we eventually concede the point, the Prime Minister will wish to press the Secretary General privately to include a British representative on the mission of inquiry to Cameroon.

*Yours truly,  
Roderic*

**RODERIC LYNE**

J S Smith Esq  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office

cc RB  
CR to  
VSCAN



Foreign &  
Commonwealth  
Office

London SW1A 2AH

Prime Minister

24 September 1993

*Red/*  
*Not v. happy*  
*fl. refer*

The nub is in the  
sidelined para. on  
page 2. If you  
agree with this,  
could you sign the  
letter to Anyaoku (below)?

Dear Rodric,

RmyL.27/R

Application from Cameroon for Commonwealth Membership

Alex Allan wrote on 7 August about Cameroon's application to join the Commonwealth. Over the last year, Britain has taken a leading role in the European Community and the Commonwealth in exerting pressure on Cameroon to respect democratic norms and basic human rights. Progress has been made. The state of emergency has been lifted, political parties are free to operate largely unhindered, there is a reasonably free press and political detainees have been released. Above all, President Biya has accepted the need to reform a constitution which vests power in a strong centralised government. The leader of the main opposition party, the SDP, has recently agreed in principle to negotiate with the government over constitutional reform: he can be expected to press for greater decentralisation of government and a limit on Presidential powers.

Much of the opposition to the present constitutional arrangements is centered on the Anglophone minority who feel, not without justification, that their interests have suffered in the past under an unjust system which relegated them to second-class citizenship. Conversely the Francophone majority are wary of constitutional arrangements which could lead to the fragmentation of the country and, ultimately, the secession of its oil-producing areas.

This is a complex situation. There are signs of a genuine willingness by all parties to engage in a dialogue over constitutional reform. It is not simply a case of an autocratic regime refusing to contemplate all further democratisation. Indeed in some respects, Cameroon's willingness to adhere to the principles of the Harare Declaration matches that of many other existing Commonwealth countries.

A: but  
see B,  
overleaf.



Using Cameroon's application for Commonwealth membership as a lever for constitutional reform and greater respect for human rights would make sense if the supporters of democracy in Cameroon opposed membership until reform is instituted. However, the reverse is true. As Anyaoku found during his visit, most Anglophone Cameroonians believe that membership would help bring further pressure to bear on Biya. Their sense of isolation and frustration holds back dialogue and reduces prospects of agreement on a new constitution. It also reduces the chance of building an early political consensus behind the tough measures needed to tackle the country's economic difficulties. To veto the application at Limassol would therefore disappoint the opposition and reinforce the Francophone tradition of a unitary centralised state.

For these reasons, the Canadians have concluded that the prospect of further reform would be enhanced by membership. They will argue that Commonwealth membership could create a more favourable climate for democracy and human rights and would better enable the Commonwealth to push for reform.

Cameroon still has a distance to go before it meets the standards in the Harare declaration. So we need an approach which recognises the strong arguments for membership while reaffirming the Commonwealth's general commitment to good Government.

In the last few weeks both Lady Chalker and FCO officials have had informal contacts with Chief Anyaoku over this issue. While still favouring immediate and unconditional membership, he remains opposed to a Commonwealth mission on the grounds that Cameroon would lose face if it was accepted. He has indicated however that he would consider a compromise formula paving the way to participation in the 1995 CHOGM.

The Foreign Secretary therefore recommends that the Prime Minister should, as you suggest, make clear that we would oppose any immediate membership. However, we should add that we would be prepared to agree at Limassol that Cameroon should in principle be admitted to the Commonwealth at the following CHOGM (Auckland 1995) provided that it had demonstrated by then that it had made genuine progress towards a democratic system of government acceptable to its people and made specific improvements in human rights. This leaves open the question of how such an assessment should be made. We should keep pressing for a Commonwealth mission, but if this proves impossible we may have to find an other formula.

In light of our recent contacts in Cameroon, we believe this formula would give the Anglophones some psychological encouragement now and also maintain the pressure for reform. If the Prime Minister agrees, we shall need to lobby key Commonwealth countries ahead of CHOGM if we are not to be isolated on this issue.

B.  
Doesn't quite square with  
A.



I enclose a revised version of the draft reply to the Secretary General. The Foreign Secretary will be seeing the Chief in New York next week. We could hand over the response then if you wished.

Yours ever,

*J S Smith*

(J S Smith)  
Private Secretary

Roderic Lyne Esq CMG  
10 Downing Street



Foreign &  
Commonwealth  
Office

20 September 1993

London SW1A 2AH

*Alex*  
*We will keep in touch with*  
*FIO to make sure 'x' is provided*

*Dear Alex,*

Application from Cameroon for Commonwealth Membership

X I am sorry that you have not had an earlier reply to your letter of 7 August about Cameroon's application to join the Commonwealth. We have been in touch with Chief Anyaoku and his officials. I hope to let you have a substantive reply on 22 September following the return of Anthony Goodenough, the AUS for Africa, who was in Cameroon last week and met the President and Prime Minister.

*Yours ever,*

*Stephen*

(J S Smith)  
Private Secretary

Alex Allan Esq  
10 Downing Street

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10 DOWNING STREET  
LONDON SW1A 2AA

*Cite M  
for applic. sth  
all B*

From the Principal Private Secretary

7 August 1993

**APPLICATION FROM CAMEROON FOR  
COMMONWEALTH MEMBERSHIP**

The Prime Minister has seen your letter of 6 August. He notes that you are recommending a course of action with which FCO Ministers are uneasy.

The Prime Minister does not see how he could justify, eg. to the House of Commons, endorsing Cameroon's application when the last Presidential election there, held only a year ago, was judged by international observers not to have been free and fair; and when Cameroon has a bad human rights record. Cameroon's application has given the Commonwealth leverage. If Commonwealth membership is to mean anything, the Commonwealth should take advantage of this opportunity. The Prime Minister feels we must take a tough line in the reply to the Secretary General: it doesn't matter if we are the only country to do so, we must say no. The Prime Minister therefore proposes to reply to the Secretary General in terms of the enclosed draft. He would be grateful for the Foreign Secretary's further advice. If we reply on these lines, the Prime Minister would like the FCO then to lobby other Commonwealth members discreetly (focusing on those with genuinely democratic governments) to support our position. If our stance is right, he is not worried at the prospect of being in a minority on this issue at CHOGM.

**ALEX ALLAN**

C. R. V. Stagg, Esq.,  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office

RESTRICTED

*ds*



10 DOWNING STREET  
LONDON SW1A 2AA

THE PRIME MINISTER

**D R A F T**

f\anyaoku.slh

Thank you for your letter of 5 July. I am grateful for your assessment of developments in Cameroon.

It is gratifying that there is strong support for Commonwealth Membership among both the Francophone and Anglophone communities in Cameroon.

I believe that, at the forthcoming Heads of Government meeting, the Commonwealth should make clear that it looks forward, in principle, to welcoming Cameroon as a member. However, the Commonwealth should say at the same time that Cameroon's application for membership cannot be taken forward until the Government of Cameroon is seen to be implementing the established principles of Commonwealth membership, including the Harare Declaration. That is clearly not the case at present. [Expand on why they aren't meeting the Harare Declaration].

We would not be justified in admitting to Commonwealth membership, a country whose last Presidential election, held less than a year ago, was judged by international observers not to have been free or fair. To ignore that judgement would be to undermine the supporters of democracy in Cameroon, and our collective dedication to democratic principles. Before Cameroon can be accepted as a member, we must see substantive progress on democratisation, and a clear improvement in the handling of human rights in Cameroon.

As the next step, I would therefore ask you to set up a Commonwealth mission to visit Cameroon and submit reports on human rights and democracy in that country. When, in the future, the Commonwealth mission is able to report a more satisfactory situation, we shall have an appropriate basis for agreeing to the membership application. I could not agree to admit Cameroon at present - indeed to do so would, I believe, damage the Commonwealth and make our Declaration at Harare look ludicrous.

His Excellency Chief Emeka C Anyaoku, CON

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PRIME MINISTER

CAMEROON

*Presumably we must say No (as  
effectively we did 2 years ago).  
A touch of the letter.*

Cameroon wants to join the Commonwealth. Last year's Presidential election in Cameroon was found by international observers not to be free or fair. Foreign Office Ministers are therefore uneasy about agreeing to Cameroon's Commonwealth application. But they don't want us to make ourselves unpopular by being almost the only country to object.

*Rodrick  
W+  
must say No.*

This seems pretty wet to me. And hard to justify in public. How would you explain your position in reply to a PQ? If Cameroon has handed us some leverage by asking to join the Club, let us for God's sake use it.

I recommend that we at least test the Foreign Office position. **Do you agree** ~~that~~ we should reply in terms of the attached draft?

*Rodrick.*

*What possible connections  
with the C/W has Cameroon?  
/*

RODERIC LYNE

7 August 1993

fcameroon.slh

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10 DOWNING STREET  
LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Private Secretary

7 August 1993

DRAFT

fapplic.slh

**APPLICATION FROM CAMEROON FOR  
COMMONWEALTH MEMBERSHIP**

The Prime Minister has seen your letter of 6 August. He notes that you are recommending a course of action with which FCO Ministers are uneasy.

The Prime Minister does not see how he could justify, eg. to the House of Commons, endorsing Cameroon's application when the last Presidential election there, held only a year ago, was judged by international observers not to have been free and fair; and when Cameroon has a bad human rights record. Cameroon's application has given the Commonwealth leverage. If Commonwealth membership is to mean anything, the Commonwealth should take advantage of this opportunity. The Prime Minister ~~would prefer~~ to reply to the Secretary General in terms of the enclosed draft. He would be grateful for the Foreign Secretary's further advice. If we reply on these lines, the Prime Minister would like the FCO then to lobby other Commonwealth members discreetly (focusing on those with genuinely democratic governments) to support our position. If our stance is right, he is not worried at the prospect of being in a minority on this issue at CHOGM.

*feels we must take a tough line in the reply to the Secretary General: it doesn't matter if we are the only country to do so, we must say no. The Prime Minister therefore proposes*

*Roderic Lyne* ALEX ALLAN

C. R. V. Stagg, Esq.,  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office

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10 DOWNING STREET

LONDON SW1A 2AA

THE PRIME MINISTER

**D R A F T**

fanyaoku.slh

Thank you for your letter of 5 July. I am grateful for your assessment of developments in Cameroon.

It is gratifying that there is strong support for Commonwealth Membership among both the Francophone and Anglophone communities in Cameroon.

I believe that, at the forthcoming Heads of Government meeting, the Commonwealth should make clear that it looks forward, in principle, to welcoming Cameroon as a member. However, the Commonwealth should say at the same time that Cameroon's application for membership cannot be taken forward until the Government of Cameroon is seen to be implementing the established principles of Commonwealth membership, including the Harare declaration. We would not be justified in admitting to Commonwealth

*That is clearly not the case at present. [Expand on why they aren't meeting the Harare Declaration].*

membership, a country whose last Presidential election, held less than a year ago, was judged by international observers not to have been free or fair. To ignore that judgement would be to undermine the supporters of democracy in Cameroon, and our collective dedication to democratic principles. Before Cameroon can be accepted as a member, we must see substantive progress on democratisation, and a clear improvement in the handling of human rights in Cameroon. // As the next step, I would therefore ask you to set up a Commonwealth mission to visit Cameroon and submit reports on human rights and democracy in that country. When, in the future, the Commonwealth mission is able to report a more satisfactory situation, we shall have an appropriate basis for agreeing to the membership application.

*I could not agree to admit Cameroon at present - indeed to do so would, I believe, damage the Commonwealth and make our declaration at Harare look ludicrous.*

His Excellency Chief Emeka C Anyaoku, CON

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ce RB

Foreign &  
Commonwealth  
Office

6 August 1993

London SW1A 2AH

*Julius Rohenic,*

APPLICATION FROM THE REPUBLIC OF CAMEROON FOR  
COMMONWEALTH MEMBERSHIP

With his letter of 7 July, Christopher Prentice enclosed a copy of the Commonwealth Secretary General's letter of 5 July to the Prime Minister and promised you a substantive reply.

As you know, we have long been concerned about Cameroon's human rights record and its commitment to the principles agreed in Harare. We were not encouraged by last October's flawed Presidential elections and the abuses which occurred during the subsequent state of emergency. There remain deep divisions between the Anglphone community and the Francophone majority, and even within them. It is far from clear whether a constitutional debate now in progress will succeed in bridging these differences, and we had hoped that Anyaoku would set in hand a thorough review of Cameroon's ability to fulfil the obligations of the Harare Declaration.

In the event, although Chief Anyaoku has taken on board our concerns about the human rights situation and concedes that there is still some way to go, he has clearly been heavily influenced by the strength of the country's enthusiasm for Commonwealth membership revealed during his visit to Cameroon.

He has concluded that there is no need for any further investigation of human rights (other than to produce in due course a progress report on Constitutional reform) and has suggested that Heads of Government might take a final decision at Limassol.

We have reluctantly concluded that there is little point in holding out against the Secretary-General's firmly-expressed views. There is evidently wide support for Cameroon's application from other Commonwealth countries (the only one to demur that we are aware of is Mauritius) and we would be unlikely to encounter much support at Limassol this Autumn if we were to resist her membership. Ministers remain uneasy about allowing such a

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decision at Limassol. But, in the absence of any evidence of substantial support from the Secretary General or other major members of the Commonwealth, they do not think we would be justified in holding out in isolation against the application. There are other more important issues on which we may need to take a stand.

/ I attach a draft reply from the Prime Minister to Chief Anyaouku.

*Xmas ever,  
Jimie*

(C R V Stagg)  
Private Secretary

Roderic Lyne Esq CMG  
10 Downing Street

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Draft reply from the Prime Minister

TO: His Excellency Chief Emeka Anyaoku  
Commonwealth Secretary General  
Commonwealth Secretariat  
Marlborough House  
Pall Mall  
LONDON  
SW1Y 5HX

Thank you for your letter of 5 July. I am most grateful to you for letting me have your assessment of developments in Cameroon.

It is evident that you made contact with a wide cross-section of opinion. I am pleased you found that support for Commonwealth membership appears to be strong in both the Francophone community and the Anglophone regions. As you note, this is a reflection both of a wish to express Cameroon's dual cultural legacy and of a hope of opening up new sources of development assistance.

It is clear, however, that one particularly crucial issue that must be addressed is the extent to which the Cameroon Government is committed to the principles of Commonwealth membership and in particular the Harare Declaration. You rightly draw attention to the controversial Presidential election of October 1992 (which international observers found was not free or fair) and the subsequent three month State of Emergency in North-West Province. I have noted your view that the Government has since then made major efforts to move forward the process of democratisation.

As you know, there remain areas of Cameroon's internal development which have caused me concern. This is why I was anxious to see a Commonwealth Human Rights Mission conduct a detailed investigation.

I accept your judgement that this may not now be necessary. I am however sure you are right that your own report should be updated at the time of the Cyprus meeting to take account of the debate in Cameroon over constitutional reform and any other matters of concern.

BF 2 weeks.

Pls.

1/2



ctb

Foreign &  
Commonwealth  
Office

London SW1A 2AH

07 July 1993

to note d/r

Dear Roderic,

I enclose the Commonwealth Secretary-General's letter to the Prime Minister of 5 July 1993 about the Secretary-General's recent visit to Cameroon and Cameroon's application to join the Commonwealth.

We shall send you advice on a reply shortly.

Yours ever,

Christopher Prentice

(C N R Prentice)  
Private Secretary

Roderic Lyne Esq CMG  
10 Downing Street

5 July 1993

*Dear Prime Minister*

You will recall that in the context of Cameroon's application to join the Commonwealth, I wrote to you on 19 April 1993 confirming my acceptance of an invitation from the Government to visit Cameroon. The visit provided a timely opportunity both to review the progress of the current process of change put in train by the Cameroon Government and also to assess the extent of the commitment of the wider Cameroonian community to the concept of Commonwealth membership.

The schedule for my short stay in Cameroon (from 19-23 June) permitted meetings with a wide cross-section of political and official representatives. I was able to hold extensive discussions with members of the Social Democratic Front (SDF), as well as with key figures from the All Anglophone Conference (AAC) and the Cameroon Anglophone Movement (CAM). Discussions were also held with the Speaker of the National Assembly, representatives of the parties in the National Assembly, officers of the Bar Association, traditional leaders, academics and resident Ambassadors of the Commonwealth diplomatic corps. I benefited greatly from extensive consultations with President Biya, as well as from discussions with the Prime Minister, the Minister of External Relations and his Minister-Delegate, the Minister of Justice and the Minister of Higher Education. Although some of these consultations took place in Yaoundé in the Centre Province, my programme also included visits to Bamenda in the North-West Province and Buea and Limbé in the South-West province where Cameroonian 'anglophones' are in the majority, and a brief stop in Douala, the capital of the Littoral province and Cameroon's largest city. In each of these, I met political party representatives, local government officials and members of the news media. Interest in the fate of Cameroon's pending membership application is widespread, as manifested in the exuberant reception which my delegation received throughout the visit, and in the comprehensive coverage which the visit and corresponding issues received in both French-language and English-language media.

It was clear that the application by Cameroon had its origins in a number of perceptions. Having at Independence decided not to join La Francophonie or the Commonwealth, the

Republic decided in 1989 that the time had come to seek membership of both organisations. The former accepted Cameroon as a member of La Francophonie that year, while the application to the Commonwealth has been under consideration since that date. There is clearly no doubting the enthusiasm of anglophones for Commonwealth membership (although some of them wish the Government to meet certain political conditions first) and there is also a feeling that such a step would help safeguard the position of the English-speaking minority and assist in advancing the process of democratic development. Equally, the Government, including representatives of the francophone majority, express the belief that membership would help internal stability and cohesion by "balancing" membership of La Francophonie and more fully expressing Cameroon's bilingual and bicultural legacies of its colonial past. Undoubtedly, there was also a perception that greater multilateral contact would benefit Cameroon, not least through its potential to open up new sources of development assistance.

Since lodging its application, the Government has taken a number of steps to fulfil the requirements of membership. A unanimous resolution was passed by the newly elected National Assembly in 1992 endorsing the Government's application. In August of that year, the Cameroon Government under the signature of President Biya issued an Instrument of Acceptance, formally adopting the Harare Commonwealth Declaration and signalling specific undertakings by the Government and opposition in furtherance of the democratic reform process.

There have however been some difficulties. The multiparty parliamentary elections of March 1992, although considered to be largely free and fair, had been boycotted by many opposition groups, including the main opposition party, the SDF - a decision which some of their number now regret. But the consequence has been that a significant proportion of the population does not have a voice in the National Assembly. Similarly, the Presidential elections which occurred in December 1992 were not without controversy and were followed by sporadic violence and by the imposition of a three month State of Emergency in the North-West Province.

Nevertheless, since then the Government has made major efforts to move forward the process of democratisation and reform, thereby demonstrating its commitment to the fundamental political values of the Commonwealth. The Government has taken steps which President Biya assured me would continue to provide for a consultative process of reform which would allow the participation of all opposition groups and concerned citizens in the drawing up of a new constitution. The proposed review of the judiciary and the "harmonisation" of the two legal systems, together with the encouragement and institutional strengthening of bilingualism and choice in the education system, are also all evidence of a willingness to countenance constructive change. Such key institutional developments as the establishing of an English-language University at Buea and

a Human Rights Commission instil a measure of confidence in the direction and pace of reforms. However, difficult decisions may yet need to be made in respect of control of the security forces, the impartiality of the public service, a deepening of the democratic culture and a resolution of the tensions arising from the ongoing argument between federalism and a unitary state.

In deferring conclusive consideration of this application, Heads of Government at Harare were guided by the deliberations of the High Level Appraisal Group (HLAG), which indicated certain pre-requisites for membership. One of these was the ability to communicate in English; in this area, Cameroon displayed not only a facility but also a willingness to adapt. Cameroon is a multi-cultural society whose linguistic and institutional arrangements, in common with many Commonwealth countries, reflect inheritances from two European traditions. And as with Canada, Seychelles, Mauritius and Vanuatu, the acceptance and recognition of dual traditions serves to enrich the Commonwealth's diversity and to enhance its ability to promote co-operation across frontiers. It would also provide Cameroon with the capacity to participate institutionally in the work of the Commonwealth.

Naturally it would interest our members to learn whether Cameroon is ready also to contribute financially and in other ways to the organisation. I have held further discussions in London with Cameroon's Ambassador and have apprised him of the likely financial requirements of membership. He in turn sought to reassure me of Cameroon's ability to play a full and proper part in work of the organisation.

In conclusion, my view is that my visit and consultations would seem to obviate the need for a Commonwealth mission of the kind to which I referred in my letter of 16 February 1993. Rather, it may prove of greater benefit if this initial report were to be updated appropriately, by the time of the Cyprus meeting, in the light of expected developments in such areas as Constitutional reform.

Support for a successful application has so far been indicated by a number of Commonwealth countries and it is envisaged that Commonwealth Governments will wish to determine the matter at the Heads of Government Meeting in Cyprus in October.

*With deep respect  
Yours sincerely  
Emeka*

Emeka Anyaoku

The Rt Hon John Major MP  
Prime Minister of Great Britain  
and Northern Ireland  
10 Downing Street  
London SW1



cc-Byp  
RB

Foreign &  
Commonwealth  
Office

London SW1A 2AH

19 April 1993

*Red*  
*I have taken attachment*  
*for the folder*  
Dear Roderic,  
*JS*  
AMBASSADOR OF CAMEROON

Thank you for your letter of 15 April about the Prime Minister's dinner engagement on 20 April. Conversation points, a page of background brief and a background note about Cameroon are enclosed.

*As discussed, I shall be writing every next week with the advice on the 04097 agenda which the Prime Minister requested.*

*Yours ever,*

*JS*  
(J S Smith)  
Private Secretary

• Roderic Lyne Esq CMG  
10 Downing Street



## CAMEROON

### CONVERSATION POINTS

#### Political

- Regret continuing tension and death of two demonstrators in Bamenda on 25 March. Dialogue remains important. Can Government persuade opposition to participate in constitutional reform process?

#### Commonwealth

- Note Cameroon application to join Commonwealth. Harare principles an important issue. Understand Commonwealth Secretary-General to visit Cameroon shortly.

#### Economic Development

- Plans to diversify economy following falls in commodity prices?

- Future of CFA franc zone?

- Any prospects for regional economic co-operation?

#### UK Diplomatic Representation in Cameroon (if raised)

- Regret closure of Consulate in Douala later this year. However, will be replaced by Honorary Consulate so UK interests in Douala will not be lost.

## CAMEROON

### BACKGROUND

1. On 11 October 1992, President Biya was re-elected against the leading opposition candidate, John Fru Ndi. The elections were flawed and followed by a state of emergency (lifted at the end of the year) during which many opposition supporters suffered human rights abuses. We have been encouraging both sides to settle their differences, but Fru Ndi remains convinced that he was duly elected President and has refused to join in government-sponsored discussions over constitutional reform. Instead he has called for a separate national Convention. Fru Ndi recently announced a boycott of Francophone goods and has held regular demonstrations to draw attention to his cause. On 25 March, 2 people were killed and 15 injured when police opened fire on a demonstration.
2. Cameroon's (1987) application to join the Commonwealth remains on the table. We have significant doubts about its ability to meet the Harare Declaration principles (and the Prime Minister has suggested the possibility of an investigative mission). Chief Anyaoku is to visit Cameroon in June to assess progress on human rights prior to a possible discussion at CHOGM.
3. The Cameroon economy is in poor shape, kept afloat largely by subvention from France (they provided FF100m in balance of payments support in February). One problem is that the currency, the CFA franc, is kept artificially high. There have been rumours of a devaluation following the French elections.
4. The British Embassy in Yaoundé has 4 UK-based staff. However, our consulate in Douala is to close in September. The British Ambassador is also accredited to Central African Republic, Chad and Equatorial Guinea. UK imports last year amounted to £6.5 million whilst exports fell to £19.6 million. Our aid programme this year is £2.3 million, mostly directed at environmental projects such as reforestation.
5. One long-running (but minor) bilateral problem which has attracted Parliamentary attention is that the Cameroon Government has been unable to pay fees or maintenance grants of some students accepted at British universities. The Cameroon authorities have expressed the hope that new fee-paying arrangements at Cameroon universities will enable money to be raised for this purpose.

CAMEROON  
COUNTRY BRIEF

1. Cameroon lies on the coast of West Africa, south of Nigeria. It is about the size of Spain and has a population of 12.2 million. Its major export is crude oil, followed by cocoa and coffee. France is the largest trading partner and in 1991 took 48% of total Cameroon exports (Britain took 4.7%).
2. The territory was administered by Germany from 1884 to 1916. From 1916 to 1959, Eastern Cameroon was administered as a League of Nations trusteeship. On 1 January 1960 it became independent as the Republic of Cameroon and was joined on 1 October 1961 by the former British administered Trust Territory of the Southern Cameroons, after a plebiscite held under UN auspices. Cameroon became a united Republic following a subsequent plebiscite in May 1972. Its Assemblée Nationale, or Parliament, has 180 members elected by universal suffrage. It sits twice yearly and holds a 5-year term. Paul Biya has held the post of President since January 1984 and was most lately re-elected in October 1991.
3. Social indicators are better than the sub-Saharan average, life expectancy is 57 years and school enrolment about 70%. Official development assistance is equivalent to about 2% GNP. However, the country has suffered a sharp reversal on the economy following falls in international prices for oil, coffee and cocoa. A stand-by arrangement with the IMF was signed in September 1988 and a World Bank Structural Adjustment loan in June 1989.
4. There are strong cultural and historical ties between the Anglophone areas of Cameroon and the UK, but the initial enthusiasm for unity with the larger Francophone community has waned in recent years.

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FI Cameroon. EVM



cc CBS

10 DOWNING STREET  
LONDON SW1A 2AA

*From the Private Secretary*

15 April 1993

**AMBASSADOR OF CAMEROON**

The Prime Minister will be dining with The Queen at Windsor Castle on Tuesday 20 April. I understand that the Ambassador of Cameroon will also be a guest of Her Majesty. I should be grateful if you could send a very short general brief on Cameroon, and conversation points relevant to that country, to reach me by 6.00 pm on Monday 19 April. The brief might consist of one page of conversation points, one page of background, and a background note.

**RODERIC LYNE**

J S Smith Esq  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office

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SUBJECT  
MASTER

Filed on:



10 DOWNING STREET  
LONDON SW1A 2AA

THE PRIME MINISTER

21 September 1992

PRIME MINISTER'S  
PERSONAL MESSAGE  
SERIAL No. T2125/92

*Dear Mr. President,*

Thank you for your recent letter about bananas which was delivered by your Minister of Agriculture to David Curry, my Minister of State at the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food. I have heard of the very useful meeting that David Curry had with John Ngu and others.

I am well aware of the importance of bananas to a number of ACP states, including Cameroon. The United Kingdom stands by its commitments to its traditional ACP suppliers, though there are also a number of other objectives to be reconciled. We have taken note of the concerns that you and other ACP countries have expressed about the Commission's proposed introduction of the concept of non-traditional ACP volumes. These and a variety of other representations that have been made to us will need to be looked at very carefully both here in the UK and with other Member States and the Commission before any decisions can be taken on the nature of harmonised Community arrangements.

I am sure that you are aware that this will be a very difficult dossier on which to reach agreement in the Community. We shall nevertheless use our best endeavours as

*FIVE  
KK*

*cc MAFF  
FLO  
ODA  
HMU  
BT*

*de*

the Presidency of the EC to achieve a satisfactory solution before the end of the year and the completion of the Single Market.

Yours faithfully,  
Alan Njiru

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



Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food  
Whitehall Place, London SW1A 2HH  
071-270 8709/8667

letters  
to draft  
only

cl ps  
RB

From the Minister's Private Office

Stephen Wall Esq  
10 Downing Street  
London  
SW1

16 September 1992

Dear Stephen,

Our Minister of State recently had a meeting with a delegation from the Cameroon. He was given the attached letter from the President of Cameroon which he was asked to deliver to the Prime Minister. The letter is a little confused (for example the ACP Group of countries has not yet reached agreement on its reaction to the Commission's proposals that appeared last month and so there is no ACP memorandum). But their central point is clear: they are concerned about the proposed introduction of a quantitative limit on ACP imports into the EC. I attach a short draft acknowledgement for the Prime Minister's signature together with a note of the meeting by way of background.

I am copying this letter and attachments to Richard Gozney (Foreign Office), Mark Lowcock (ODA), Jeremy Heywood (Treasury) and Peter Smith (DTI).

Yours sincerely

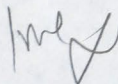
DAVID ROSSINGTON  
Principal Private Secretary

DRAFT REPLY FOR SIGNATURE BY THE PRIME MINISTER TO A LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT  
OF THE REPUBLIC OF CAMEROON

Paul Biya

President of the Republic of Cameroon  
Yaounde

September 1992



Thank you for your recent letter about bananas which was delivered by your  
Minister of Agriculture to David Curry, my Minister of State at the Ministry  
of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food. I have <sup>been read</sup> advised of the very useful  
meeting that David Curry had with John Ngu and others.

I am well aware of the importance of bananas to a number of ACP states,  
including Cameroon. The UK stands by its commitments to its traditional ACP  
suppliers though there are also a number of other objectives to be reconciled.  
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expressed about the Commission's proposed introduction of the concept of  
non-traditional ACP volumes. These and a variety of other representations  
that have been made to us will need to be looked at very carefully both here  
in the UK and with other Member States and the Commission before any decisions  
can be taken on the nature of harmonised Community arrangements.

I am sure that you are aware that this will be a very difficult dossier on  
which to reach agreement in the Community. We shall nevertheless use our best  
endeavours as the Presidency of the EC to achieve a satisfactory solution  
before the end of the year and the completion of the Single Market.

1TPT74.Dft

MINISTER OF STATE'S MEETING WITH CAMEROON MINISTERS:  
14 SEPTEMBER 1992

1. You, together with Mr Render, were present when the Minister of State met a delegation of nine representatives from the Cameroon, including Mr John Niba Ngu (the Minister of Agriculture), Mr Louis Marie Abogo Nkono (Minister for Trade and Industrial Development), and Dr Giberling Bol-Alima (Ambassador), to discuss the Commission's proposal for the post-1992 EC banana market.

2. The Minister of State began by saying the UK had a clear commitment to protecting the special status of ACP bananas, as well as an obligation as Presidency to find a solution. The Minister of State said we must have an agreement by the end of the year if we were to avoid entering the Single Market with no controls on bananas. We were not starting from an easy position, but we had to ensure that we had a mechanism which would guarantee a place in the market for ACP fruit. There were considerable differences of opinion among EC Member States, with some (France, Spain, Portugal, and Greece) protecting their own country's interest, others (the Germans, the Danes and the Dutch) preferring a completely free market, others (like the Italians) whose position was uncertain, and then the UK. The Minister of State said he would like to hear the views of the Cameroon Minister on the Commission proposals, and also to have an indication of where he thought there was room for manoeuvre in the event of a compromise having to be drawn up.

3. Minister Niba Ngu thanked the Minister of State for putting the case very clearly, and said he thought Cameroon were lucky that the UK was holding the Presidency. He knew the UK would seek the best solution for all interests. The Minister handed the Minister of State a letter from his Head of State for delivery to the Prime Minister. He described the background to the Lomé Convention, and the particular problem for Cameroon, where there had been significant investment in bananas in recent years to replace coffee, cocoa and cotton, and where under the Commission's proposals only part of the production would be treated as ACP fruit, with the rest as non-traditional ACP. Cameroon was an ACP country, with a long tradition of supplying the EC markets, first to the UK, and then to France. Under the Commission's proposals the Caribbean countries would face some difficulties, as would the Ivory Coast, though none of these countries would suffer as much as Cameroon.

4. The Minister of State said he understood the particular problem faced by Cameroon. Looking at the broad structure of proposals, he saw three ways forward:

- i) to have a free and open market, which would give a clear advantage to the dollar banana producers;

- ii) the present Commission proposals would which reserve part of the market for the traditional suppliers;
- iii) a structure of tariffs whereby the ACP countries would have a zero tariff and the dollar producers would face stepped tariffs dependent on the quantities supplied.

The Working Group would begin in Brussels this week but the Minister of State expected that a compromise would have to be worked out in the Council, and this would need to deliver guarantees to traditional suppliers and still be acceptable to those countries who wanted an open market.

5. Minister Niba Ngu said that he was happy with the proposal that dollar imports should be subject to a 20% tariff, as this would make dollar bananas a little more expensive relative to EC and ACP fruit. However, a tariff alone would not provide effective protection and a quantitative limit on dollar imports was essential.

6. The problem with the Commission's proposal as currently drafted, was that it took no account of investments made to improve the productivity since the 1990 reference period introduced for ACP imports. Cameroon was concerned that they would not be able to pay back the debts that they had incurred (through loans from the EIB, the World Bank and others) in diversifying their production into bananas. The concept of any quantitative restrictions on ACP imports was not compatible with the Lomé Convention. However, in the interests of not destabilising the Market, they would be prepared to stop any further plantings from now on; but production from plants already in the ground was expected to rise to more than three times the limit proposed by the Commission by 1995 (250,000 tonnes compared to 70,000 tonnes).

7. The Minister of State appreciated that they wanted to protect the investment which had already taken place, and that the proposed 1990 baseline had disadvantages for Cameroon. Colonel Btonde (representative of the Cameroon Banana Growers and a major producer) said that at 250,000 tonnes they could compete more effectively with the Latin American countries on 'outside' factors such as freight, port labour, and packaging.

8. The Minister of State said that he appreciated the importance of economies of scale for the whole competitive position of the industry. He thanked the delegation for coming to see him. He invited the Cameroons to stay in touch as the negotiations progressed in case it became necessary for them to pass on further views on compromises that might

emerge. He promised to pass on the Cameroon Head of State's letter to the Prime Minister together with a record of his own conversation with Minister Niba Ngu.

*AnnelMarie Gartland*

Anne-Marie Gartland  
PS/Minister of State  
15 September 1992

Mr M Hill

cc Mr D Rossington (PPS/Minister)  
Mr P Campbell (PS/Perm Sec)  
Mr R Packer  
Mr J Hepburn  
Mr D Hunter  
Mr T Render - thank you for providing the briefing for  
this  
Mr Bucknell (Africa Dept. (Equatorial), FCO)  
Dr Browne (ECD(E), FCO)

**SUBJECT**  
**MASTER**

**Filed on:**

PEACE - WORK - FATHERLAND



**PRIME MINISTER'S**  
**PERSONAL MESSAGE**  
SERIAL No. 7207/192

*Republic of Cameroon*

*The President*  
*of the Republic*

Yaounde, 11 SEP. 1992

B 329/a/SG/PR

To: The Rt. Hon. John Major  
Prime Minister of the  
United Kingdom of Great  
Britain and Northern Ireland  
LONDON.

Mr. Prime Minister,

The European Economic Community is preparing to take important measures affecting bananas in view of the introduction of the European Single Market.

In this regard, proposals have been made by the European Commission with a view to putting in place a new mechanism governing the banana market. Such proposals, which tend to endorse the concepts of "traditional ACP bananas" and "non-traditional ACP bananas" instead of "traditional ACP supplier countries" and "non-traditional ACP supplier countries" are contrary to the provisions of Article 2 of Protocol V of the Annex to the Lome IV Convention.

These proposals drew a reaction from the ACP Group which declared its stance in a memorandum forwarded to your office.

Cameroon subscribes entirely to the said memorandum.

.../...

In this regard, the Commission's proposal is all the more disquieting, as Cameroon, with the encouragement and support of E.E.C. authorities, has embarked on an extensive programme to rehabilitate and develop the banana sector with an overall investment of 16,000 million CFAF. Cameroon's production thus increased from 74,000 tonnes in 1990 to 125,000 tonnes in 1991, and may reach 250,000 tonnes by the end of the programme in 1995.

As far as Cameroon, for whom banana has become the main export product is concerned, therefore this slip in the interpretation of the provisions of the Lome IV Convention and the resulting total liberalization of access to the Community market would considerably jeopardize the amortization of such investments. It would also undermine the jobs of thousands of Cameroonians at a very inopportune moment due to the difficulties our industries are facing.

In the face of such a situation, I remain convinced that you will continue to lend your weight so that the terms used in the Lome Convention (traditional ACP supplier countries) which cover our interests perfectly, are strictly adopted in the Community decision and that the concept of "traditional ACP banana", which is remote from our common legal framework and very deleterious to us, is dropped.

Accept, Mr. Prime Minister, the assurances of my highest consideration.



*Paul Biya*

Paul Biya  
President of the Republic of Cameroon.

***MEMORANDUM DE LA REPUBLIQUE***

***DU CAMEROUN***

***\*\*\*\* 0 \*\*\*\****

***SUR LE PROJET DE REORGANISATION DU  
MARCHE DE LA BANANE***

***.....***

## 1 - INTRODUCTION

Dans sa récente proposition relative à l'organisation commune des marchés dans le "secteur de la banane", la Commission des Communautés Européennes procède (s'agissant du régime des échanges avec les Pays Tiers) à une distinction entre :

1') - "Les importations traditionnelles des Etats ACP" qui correspondent aux quantités de bananes exportées par lesdits Etats vers la Communauté pendant l'année 1990. Les bananes faisant l'objet de ces importations sont dénommées "Bananes Traditionnelles ACP".

2') - "Les importations non traditionnelles des Etats ACP" qui correspondent aux quantités exportées par lesdits Etats au-delà des quantités visées ci-dessus.

Ces bananes sont dénommées "Bananes non traditionnelles ACP" (Article 15).

## 2 - SUR LE PLAN JURIDIQUE (Régime des échanges)

Dans sa proposition, la Commission précise que "Les importations dans la Communauté des Bananes Pays Tiers et des bananes non traditionnelles ACP, sont effectuées dans le cadre d'un contingent de base, d'un volume de deux millions (2.000.000) de tonnes, et d'un contingent additionnel dont le volume est déterminé chaque année dans le cadre du bilan prévisionnel (Article 17 Alinéa 1).

La Commission ne donne aucune précision quant aux modalités de gestion et de répartition tant du contingent de base que du contingent additionnel.

Au regard de cette proposition commerciale, il importe de rappeler les termes exacts de la Convention CEE/ACP régissant les importations par la Communauté des produits originaires des ACP. En ses articles 168, Alinéa 1er et 169 Alinéa 1er, la Convention dispose en effet :

ARTICLE 168 ALINEA 1ER "Les produits originaires des Etats ACP sont admis à l'importation dans la Communauté en exemption de droits de douane et de taxes d'effet équivalent".

ARTICLE 169 ALINEA 1ER "La Communauté n'applique pas à l'importation des produits originaires des Etats ACP de restrictions quantitatives ni de mesures d'effet équivalent".

Plus spécifiquement, le Protocole V annexé à la Convention et relatif à la banane stipule :

ARTICLE 1ER : Pour ses exportations de bananes vers les marchés de la Communauté, aucun Etat ACP n'est placé, en ce qui concerne l'accès à ses marchés traditionnels et ses avantages sur ces marchés, dans une situation moins favorable que celle qu'il connaissait antérieurement ou qu'il connaît actuellement.

Article 2 : Chaque Etat ACP Intéressé et la Communauté se concertent afin de déterminer les actions à mettre en oeuvre pour améliorer les conditions de production et de commercialisation des bananes.

A la lumière de ces dispositions de la Convention, la proposition communautaire laisse apparaître une série de glissements dont l'une des conséquences majeures est le passage d'une situation de préférence spécifique dans le cadre de la Convention à une tentative par la Communauté d'introduire des restrictions quantitatives sur des produits jouissant jusque-là de cette préférence.

En effet, nulle part dans les dispositions de la Convention, on ne retrouve la notion retenue par la Communauté de "Bananes Traditionnelles" qui se trouve être par conséquent sur le plan juridique sans fondement.

Il s'agit là d'une notion négative, en contradiction flagrante avec les dispositions de la Convention de Lomé relatives à la Coopération Commerciale. En effet, la Convention et le Protocole V relatif aux Bananes encouragent les Etats à entreprendre des actions destinées à améliorer la production et la commercialisation de la banane.

Face à la situation que créerait cette proposition com-

munautaire, le Groupe ACP a adressé à la Commission des Communautés Européennes un mémorandum mettant en relief les risques inhérents à l'adoption de ladite proposition. Il a également recommandé en plus de la non limitation des quantités provenant des fournisseurs traditionnels, les mesures suivantes :

1°) - L'application des restrictions quantitatives sur les importations en provenance des Pays Tiers ne jouissant pas de régime préférentiel ;

2°) - L'application d'un droit de douane consolidé de 20 % sur toutes les importations en provenance des Pays Tiers ne jouissant pas de régime préférentiel ;

3°) - La mise en place d'un mécanisme de soutien des prix par le biais d'un prélèvement variable sur le prix CAF des importations en provenance de tous les Pays Tiers, afin de combler l'écart entre ces importations et celles des sources traditionnelles ACP.

Le Cameroun adhère entièrement à l'ensemble des propositions du Groupe ACP.

### **3 - SUR LE PLAN ECONOMIQUE**

Le Cameroun sur incitation et avec l'appui des Autori-

tés Communautaires (Annexe 1) s'est engagé dans un vaste programme de réhabilitation et de développement du secteur bananier avec un investissement global de 16 Milliards de F CFA. La production résultante est passée de 88.000 tonnes en 1990 à 125.000 tonnes en 1991 et pourrait atteindre 250.000 tonnes à l'horizon 1995.

Pour le Cameroun dont la banane est ainsi devenue le premier produit d'exportation (Annexe 1), l'application des restrictions quantitatives, contraires à l'article 169 de la Convention de Lomé IV, aurait la fâcheuse conséquence d'hypothéquer lourdement l'élan que les pays de la Communauté (Caisse Centrale de Coopération Economique, Banque Européenne d'Investissement et Banque Mondiale) ont voulu donner au développement de ce produit au Cameroun et, partant, à l'amélioration de la balance commerciale, de la balance des paiements et de la politique de désendettement du Cameroun.

Les effets néfastes sur le plan interne, dans un pays qui déploie d'énormes efforts pour relancer l'appareil de production et redevenir un partenaire viable, ne sont pas à démontrer. Par ailleurs, depuis six ans, le Cameroun a systématiquement gelé les augmentations de salaires dans le secteur public et le secteur privé. La restructuration et la privatisation des entreprises publiques, la compression des emplois et la fermeture de nombreuses entreprises ont aggravé davantage le chômage. Dans le

secteur agricole, notamment dans les filières cacao-café, de nombreuses plantations sont aujourd'hui abandonnées, suite à la chute des cours de ces produits, accentuant ainsi le flux du chômage. Tout ceci s'est traduit par un resserrement des salaires. La filière banane qui, dans le même temps, n'a pas connu d'augmentation de salaires, a dû profiter de cette conjoncture. Ce qui peut apparaître comme une performance n'est donc, en fait, que le résultat de cette situation somme toute passagère.

Qu'il suffise de mentionner que la mesure préconisée par la Commission aurait pour conséquence, dans sa formulation initiale, de limiter le quota admissible du Cameroun à sa production de 1990, de réduire à néant, par sa seule application, tout l'effort d'investissement mentionné plus haut et d'entraîner la perte de 25.000 emplois et une perte de recettes d'exportation annuelle de plus de 40 Milliards de F CFA.

En tout état de cause, si le projet de réglementation, objet de la proposition récente de la Commission des Communautés Européennes était adopté en l'état, il conduirait à très brève échéance, du fait principalement de l'amputation d'une part substantielle des tonnages vitaux de bananes du Cameroun, à la remise en cause de la viabilité économique des différents projets en cours d'exécution et donc, à la disparition pure et simple des exploitations bananières au Cameroun.

Le Cameroun étant un fournisseur traditionnel et préférentiel du Marché Communautaire, toute mesure tendant à limiter, voire supprimer les avantages liés à son statut hypothéquerait l'ensemble du programme de réhabilitation du secteur bananier (Annexes 2 et 3) et compromettrait le respect des engagements pris par le Cameroun à l'égard de ses bailleurs de fonds.

La République du Cameroun estime donc qu'en l'état actuel des choses, les dispositions de la légalité commune CEE-ACP, l'élan de ses investissements et les conséquences de l'arrêt brutal de ce dernier, l'autorisent et l'obligent à revendiquer l'écoulement sans restrictions quantitatives de sa production tant actuelle (145.000 tonnes en 1992) que prévisible (216.000 tonnes en 1994 et 250.000 tonnes en 1995).

Toutefois, nous nous associerons, connaissant bien l'intérêt commun d'ajuster l'offre à la demande globale de la CEE, à tous les efforts qui recherchent des quantités tenant compte du volume résultant des investissements déjà engagés.

A cet égard, nous tenons à ce qu'il soit bien entendu que le quota du Cameroun correspondant au rendement des investissements actuels est de 250.000 tonnes, ce qui équivaut à la production de croisière qui sera atteinte à l'horizon 1995.

Nous nous sommes associés à la Communauté sur la base de la non-restriction quantitative de notre production sur son marché et de la protection de celle-ci à l'égard des pays-Tiers. Nos investissements ont été faits dans cette perspective, encouragés en cela par nos partenaires de la Communauté. Il serait anormal de pénaliser les résultats de ces efforts communs, sous le prétexte d'une performance au demeurant passagère et soumise à aléas.

## ANNEXE 1

MONTANT DES INVESTISSE- TISSEMENTS (1988/1992)	ORGANISMES PRETEURS	DUREE DES PRETS
-----		
16 Milliards de francs CFA dont 10 Milliards de prêts.	: Privés européens, Caisse centrale : de Coopération Economique, Banque : Européenne d'investissement, Sté : Fin. Internationale (Banque Mon- : diale).	: 10 ANS

- L'incidence agronomique de ces investissements
- Surface en culture : 4.800 Hectares
- Rendement escompté : 45 tonnes/hectare (ce rendement est déjà effectif depuis 1990 sur les parcelles entièrement équipées).
- Tonnage (brut) réalisé en 1991..... : 125.000 T.
- Tonnage (brut) réalisable en 1992.... : 145.000 T
- Tonnage (brut) prévisionnel pour 1993 : 195.000 T.
- Tonnage (brut) prévisionnel pour 1994 : 216.000 T.
- Tonnage (brut) potentiel pour 1995... : 250.000 T.

### RETOMBEES SOCIO-ECONOMIQUES :

VALEUR D'EXPORTATION ANNUELLE	E M P L O I S	
	DIRECTS	INDUITS
40 Milliards de FCFA soit le premier produit agricole d'exportation.	6.500	18.000

## ANNEXE 2

### DONNEES CHIFFREES SUR L'EXPLOITATION BANANIERE AU CAMEROUN

#### La Quasi-constance des superficies cultivées

<u>A N N E E</u>	<u>S U P E R F I C I E</u>
1970 - 1980.....	4.000 Hectares environ
1981.....	3.507 Hectares
1982.....	3.336 Hectares
1985.....	3.574 Hectares
1986-1989.....	4.500 Hectares
1992.....	4.800 Hectares

## ANNEXE 3

### LA FLUCTUATION CORRELATIVE DE LA PRODUCTION

Avant-guerre	:	250.000 / 300.000 T
.....	:	.....
.....	:	.....
.....	:	.....
1973	:	71.000 T
1974	:	82.000 T
1975	:	82.000 T
1976	:	89.000 T
1977	:	90.000 T
1978	:	90.000 T
1979	:	87.000 T
1980	:	66.000 T
1981	:	59.000 T
1982	:	54.000 T
1983	:	50.000 T
....	:	.....
....	:	.....
....	:	.....
1987	:	47.000 T
1988	:	39.000 T
1989	:	63.000 T
1990	:	88.000 T
1991	:	125.000 T



PRIME MINISTER'S <sup>Calc GM</sup>  
PERSONAL MESSAGE <sup>W</sup>  
SERIAL NO. 123190

10 DOWNING STREET  
LONDON SW1A 2AA

Pa  
SUBJECT cc Mante  
OPS

THE PRIME MINISTER

17 December 1990

Dear Mr. President,

Thank you for your kind and generous wishes following my recent election. May I take this opportunity to reaffirm the good relationship between our two countries and send my best wishes for the prosperity of the people of the Republic of Cameroon.

Yours faithfully  
John Major

His Excellency Monsieur Paul Biya GCMG

SM

BASSADE DE LA REPUBLIQUE  
DU CAMEROUN  
Paix - Travail - Patrie



ORIGINAL with PM  
EMBASSY OF THE REPUBLIC  
OF CAMEROON  
Peace - Work - Fatherland  
MESSAGE  
SERIAL No. T-10190

SUBJECT *amante*  
*OTS*

84 Holland Park,  
LONDON, W11 3SB  
01-727 0771  
071 792 9353

No. 847 /ECL/DG1/90

The Embassy of the Republic of Cameroon presents its compliments to Her Majesty's Marshal of the Diplomatic Corps in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and has the honour to enclose, herein, for onward transmission, a telex message addressed to the Rt. Honourable JOHN MAJOR, Prime Minister, from H.E. PAUL BIYA, President of the Republic of Cameroon.

Quota THE RT. HON. JOHN MAJOR  
PRIME MINISTER OF THE UNITED KINGDOM  
OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND  
- LONDON -

ON THE OCCASION OF YOUR BRILLIANT ELECTION AS LEADER OF THE CONSERVATIVE PARTY AND YOUR INDUCTION AS PRIME MINISTER OF THE UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND, I AM PARTICULARLY PLEASUED TO CONVEY TO YOU MY WARM CONGRATULATIONS AND FERVENT WISHES FOR EVERY SUCCESS IN THE DISCHARGE OF YOUR LOFTY DUTIES.

COGNIZANT OF OUR COMMON ATTACHMENT TO THE TRADITIONAL FRIENDSHIP AND FRUITFUL CO-OPERATION TIES BINDING THE UNITED KINGDOM AND CAMEROON, I REMAIN CONVINCED THAT WE WILL STRIVE TO PURSUE THE STRENGTHENING OF OUR CLOSE AND MULTIFACETED RELATIONS IN A SPIRIT OF TRUST, RESPECT AND MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING.

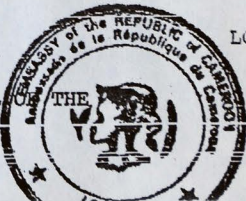
WHILE CONVEYING TO YOU AND TO THE PEOPLE OF THE UNITED KINGDOM MY SINCERE WISHES FOR HAPPINESS AND PROSPERITY, PLEASE ACCEPT MR. PRIME MINISTER, THE ASSURANCES OF MY HIGHEST ESTEEM.

PAUL BIYA  
PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF CAMEROON Unquote

The Embassy of the Republic of Cameroon avails itself of this opportunity to renew to Her Majesty's Marshal of the Diplomatic Corps, the assurances of its highest consideration

LONDON, 28 NOVEMBER 1990

HER MAJESTY'S MASHAL  
DIPLOMATIC CORPS,  
Ambassadors Court  
St. James's Palace  
LONDON SW1





10 DOWNING STREET  
LONDON SW1A 2AA

THE PRIME MINISTER

28 February 1990

PRIME MINISTER'S  
PERSONAL MESSAGE  
SERIAL No. T45/90

SUBJECT cc MASTER  
OP

Your Excellency

I have received through your Embassy here in London your letter dated 9 October 1989, also signed by Their Excellencies the Presidents of Congo and Gabon, drawing my attention to your common economic difficulties and your heavy debt service obligations.

I am grateful for your generous acknowledgement of Britain's contribution to African development through debt relief and other official development assistance, which we have significantly increased in recent years in support of essential programmes of economic reform. We have taken the lead in the debt initiatives which you mention designed to help the poorest countries in Africa.

We recognise that these initiatives do not apply to a varied group of countries, including your own, in Africa and elsewhere. We therefore believe that creditor governments can best help such countries with their debt problems by flexible use of existing mechanisms, including rescheduling of official debts in the Paris Club. Britain plays a full part in the deliberations of the Paris Club, which considers each case on its merits, and reaches decisions by consensus.

ca

Our aim in providing debt relief, as with all our development aid, remains to assist you in your efforts to create the conditions for economic recovery and sustained growth.

Yours sincerely

Raymond Barthelemy

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

Our aim in providing debt relief, as with all our development aid, remains to assist you in your efforts to create the conditions for economic recovery and sustained growth.

Yours sincerely

Raymond Shabara

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



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

CONFIDENTIAL

27 February 1990

*Sen Charles*

Debt

I enclose a letter to the Prime Minister from the Presidents of Cameroon, Congo and Gabon, dated October 1989 but not received by our West African Department from the Cameroon Embassy until mid-December. The letter requests UK support for new debt relief measures for middle-income countries in Africa, which, the Presidents consider, have been overlooked by recent developments in the international debt strategy.

Since 1988 creditor governments have implemented two initiatives to help severely indebted countries pursuing market-oriented economic reforms. These are the "Toronto Terms" for concessional rescheduling of official debt in the Paris Club, and "Brady Plan" for commercial bank debt reduction. The intended beneficiaries are, respectively, the poorest African countries with large debts to official creditors, and the middle-income countries mainly in Latin America which owe the bulk of their debts to commercial banks.

Attention has now turned to "intermediate debtors", countries which have serious debt problems falling outside the scope of these initiatives. They do not stand to benefit much from the Brady Plan since they owe most of their debts to governments: but they are too rich to qualify for the Toronto Terms. They make up a varied group, which includes Jamaica, Fiji and Egypt as well as these richer oil-producing states of Francophone Africa which are now experiencing economic difficulties as a result of the fall in world oil prices.

We have argued hitherto that it would not be possible to tailor a specific initiative to suit such a range of countries, and that creditor governments should continue to assist them on a case by case basis using the

/existing

CONFIDENTIAL



CONFIDENTIAL

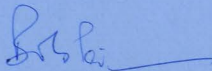
existing mechanisms, including multilateral rescheduling of debts in the Paris Club. In November and December 1989, however, the Paris Club did consider extending more generous terms than usual for intermediate debtors. The discussion was promoted by France out of concern to secure favourable terms for the Ivory Coast, whose debts were rescheduled in December. There were signs of a consensus on offering extended repayment periods (which were in fact granted to the Ivory Coast) but without any real concessionality as in the debt and debt service reduction offered in the Toronto Terms. No final decision was reached.

When we received this letter in mid-December, we expected these discussions to continue in the New Year, and planned to await the outcome to which the Prime Minister could then refer in her reply. In the event, the Paris Club has been increasingly absorbed by the problem of rescheduling the debts of Poland, and it is now clear that the question of the "intermediate debtors" has receded, at least for the time being. We recommend therefore that a reply should now be sent without further delay even though it can refer only in general to the provision of debt relief in the Paris Club, without mentioning the possibility of any special treatment.

We understand that the same letter was sent to the Heads of other creditor Governments. HM Ambassador in Brazzaville has informed us that a reply from Prime Minister Andreotti was sent earlier this month, but that Chancellor Kohl has not yet replied.

The enclosed draft reply from the Prime Minister is addressed to President Biya since the letter was delivered by the Cameroon Embassy. It has been approved by HM Treasury.

I am copying this letter to John Gieve at HM Treasury.

*Yours sincerely*  
  
(R N Peirce)  
Private Secretary

C D Powell Esq  
10 Downing Street

CONFIDENTIAL

FROM: THE PRIME MINISTER

TO: HIS EXCELLENCY  
PRESIDENT PAUL BIYA  
THE REPUBLIC OF CAMEROON

B issue

CD 271

I have received through your Embassy here in London your letter dated 9 October 1989, also signed by Their Excellencies the Presidents of Congo and Gabon, drawing my attention to your common economic difficulties and your heavy debt service obligations.

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We recognise that these initiatives do not apply to a varied group of countries, including your own, in Africa and elsewhere. We therefore believe that creditor governments can best help such countries with their debt problems by flexible use of existing mechanisms, including rescheduling of official debts in the Paris Club. Britain plays a full part in the deliberations of the Paris Club, which considers each case on its merits, and reaches decisions by consensus.

Our aim in providing debt relief, as with all our development aid, remains to assist you in your efforts to create the conditions for economic recovery and sustained growth.

KX

LE PRESIDENT DE LA REPUBLIQUE  
DU CAMEROUN

LE PRESIDENT DE LA REPUBLIQUE  
POPULAIRE DU CONGO

LE PRESIDENT DE LA REPUBLIQUE  
GABONAISE

YAOUNDE, LE 09 OCTOBRE 1989

MADAME LE PREMIER MINISTRE,

NOUS AVONS L'HONNEUR D'APPELER VOTRE BIENVEILLANTE ATTENTION SUR LA SITUATION ÉCONOMIQUE GÉNÉRALE TRÈS PRÉOCCUPANTE DE L'AFRIQUE SUB-SAHARIENNE, NOTAMMENT DE NOS TROIS ÉTATS D'AFRIQUE CENTRALE, DU FAIT DE LA CHUTE CONTINUE DES COURS DE NOS MATIÈRES PREMIÈRES D'EXPORTATION ET DE L'ALOURDISSEMENT CROISSANT DU FARDEAU DE LA DETTE.

A L'INITIATIVE DE CERTAINS ÉTATS, IL S'EST DÉGAGÉ UN ÉLAN DE SOLIDARITÉ INTERNATIONALE CONCRÉTISÉ PAR DES DÉCISIONS D'ALLÈGEMENT, VOIRE DE REMISE TOTALE DES DETTES EN FAVEUR DES PAYS AFRICAINS LES MOINS AVANCÉS.

NOUS SALUONS CETTE MARQUE DE SOLIDARITÉ ET DEMEURONS PERSUADÉS QU'ELLE CONSTITUE L'UNE DES CONDITIONS ESSENTIELLES DE DÉCLENCHEMENT DU PROCESSUS DE RELANCE DE NOS ÉCONOMIES.

LA GRANDE-BRETAGNE OCCUPE, SUR LA SCÈNE INTERNATIONALE, UNE PLACE DE CHOIX ET A TOUJOURS MANIFESTÉ UNE SENSIBILITÉ PARTICULIÈRE ET UN INTÉRÊT CONSTANT À TOUT CE QUI TOUCHE LA COOPÉRATION INTERNATIONALE EN GÉNÉRAL ET SINGULIÈREMENT L'AIDE AU DÉVELOPPEMENT.

MADAME MARGARET THATCHER  
PREMIER MINISTRE DE GRANDE-  
BRETAGNE

.../

C'EST POURQUOI, À L'HEURE OÙ PLUS QUE JAMAIS, LA PERSISTANCE ET L'AGGRAVATION DE LA CRISE ÉCONOMIQUE COMMANDENT UN RENFORCEMENT DE LA SOLIDARITÉ INTERNATIONALE, NOUS COMPTONS SUR VOTRE PAYS POUR APPORTER DES SOLUTIONS SPÉCIFIQUES À NOTRE SITUATION D'ÉTATS AFRICAINS À REVENU INTERMÉDIAIRE, NON ÉLIGIBLES AU MÉCANISME DE TORONTO ET AUXQUELS LE PLAN BRADY NE PEUT S'APPLIQUER EFFICACEMENT, EN RAISON DU VOLUME RELATIVEMENT FAIBLE DE NOTRE DETTE COMMERCIALE.

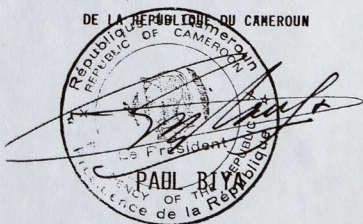
CONNAISSANT VOTRE ATTACHEMENT PERSONNEL AUX PROBLÈMES D'APPUI AU DÉVELOPPEMENT, NOUS AVONS LA FERME CONVICTION QUE NOTRE DÉMARCHE SERA EXAMINÉE FAVORABLEMENT.

NOUS VOUS PRIONS D'AGRÉER, MADAME LE PREMIER MINISTRE, L'ASSURANCE RENOUVELÉE DE NOTRE HAUTE CONSIDÉRATION./,

SON EXCELLENCE MONSIEUR LE PRESIDENT  
DE LA RÉPUBLIQUE DU CAMEROUN

SON EXCELLENCE MONSIEUR LE PRESIDENT  
DE LA RÉPUBLIQUE POPULAIRE DU CONGO

SON EXCELLENCE MONSIEUR LE  
PRESIDENT DE LA RÉPUBLIQUE  
GABONAISE



LE GÉNÉRAL D'ARMÉE  
DENIS SASSOU NGUESSO

EL HADJ OMAR BONGO

LE PRÉSIDENT DE LA REPUBLIQUE  
DU CAMEROUN

LE PRÉSIDENT DE LA REPUBLIQUE  
POPULAIRE DU CONGO

LE PRÉSIDENT DE LA REPUBLIQUE  
GABONAISE

PRIME MINISTER'S  
PERSONAL MESSAGE  
SERIAL No. T.178/89

SUBJECT CC MASTER  
OPS

YAOUNDE, LE 09 OCTOBRE 1989

MADAME LE PREMIER MINISTRE,

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MADAME MARGARET THATCHER  
PREMIER MINISTRE DE GRANDE-  
BRETAGNE

.../

---

C'EST POURQUOI, À L'HEURE OÙ PLUS QUE JAMAIS, LA PERSISTANCE ET L'AGGRAVATION DE LA CRISE ÉCONOMIQUE COMMANDENT UN RENFORCEMENT DE LA SOLIDARITÉ INTERNATIONALE, NOUS COMPTONS SUR VOTRE PAYS POUR APPORTER DES SOLUTIONS SPÉCIFIQUES À NOTRE SITUATION D'ÉTATS AFRICAINS À REVENU INTERMÉDIAIRE, NON ÉLIGIBLES AU MÉCANISME DE TORONTO ET AUXQUELS LE PLAN BRADY NE PEUT S'APPLIQUER EFFICACEMENT, EN RAISON DU VOLUME RELATIVEMENT FAIBLE DE NOTRE DETTE COMMERCIALE.

CONNAISSANT VOTRE ATTACHEMENT PERSONNEL AUX PROBLÈMES D'APPUI AU DÉVELOPPEMENT, NOUS AVONS LA FERME CONVICTION QUE NOTRE DÉMARCHE SERA EXAMINÉE FAVORABLEMENT.

NOUS VOUS PRIONS D'AGRÉER, MADAME LE PREMIER MINISTRE, L'ASSURANCE RENOUVELÉE DE NOTRE HAUTE CONSIDÉRATION./.

SON EXCELLENCE MONSIEUR LE PRESIDENT  
DE LA RÉPUBLIQUE DU CAMEROUN

SON EXCELLENCE MONSIEUR LE PRESIDENT  
DE LA RÉPUBLIQUE POPULAIRE DU CONGO

SON EXCELLENCE MONSIEUR LE  
PRESIDENT DE LA RÉPUBLIQUE  
GABONAISE



*av. 26.*  
LE GÉNÉRAL D'ARMÉE  
BENIS SASSOU NGUESSO

EL HADJ OMAR BONGO



file mem

10 DOWNING STREET  
LONDON SW1A 2AA

*From the Private Secretary*

1 February 1989

I enclose a copy of a letter to the Prime Minister from President Biya of Cameroon about the agreement reached between his Government and the IMF.

I am copying this letter to Alex Allan (HM Treasury) and to Myles Wickstead (Overseas Development Administration).

CHARLES POWELL

Richard Gozney, Esq.,  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office

Lo

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

No. 53 /ECL/ DC.1/89 4

The Embassy of the Republic of Cameroon presents its compliments to the Vice Marshal of the Diplomatic Corps and has the honour of submitting, herewith, a sealed envelope from His Excellency, President Paul BIYA of Cameroon to the Rt. Hon. Mrs. Margaret Thatcher, Prime Minister of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

The Embassy of the Republic of Cameroon avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Vice Marshal of the Diplomatic Corps the assurances of its highest consideration.

London, 30th January 1989

The Vice Marshal of the Diplomatic Corps,  
Protocol and Conference Department,  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office,  
London SW1.



PEACE - WORK - FATHERLAND



# Republic of Cameroon

SUBJECT  
CUTMASTER  
OPS.

*The President  
of the Republic*

A 329/CAB/PR

Yaounde, 12 DEC 1988

**PRIME MINISTER'S  
PERSONAL MESSAGE**  
SERIAL No. T.190c/88

Dear Prime Minister,

As part of the drive to overcome the difficulties caused by the crisis that has been hitting Cameroon for some time now, I have outlined a series of adjustment measures. The implementation of these measures will call for invaluable support of our friends and major partners. I informed you of this development last March.

I am pleased to note that your government has asserted its willingness and desire to help Cameroon provided that it is within the context of an economic adjustment programme drawn up by Cameroon after consultations with international financial institutions.

I am therefore happy to inform you that we have signed an agreement with the IMF and that another one should be signed with the World Bank in the very near future.

Allow me to seize this opportunity to thank you sincerely for the support of the British Government during our negotiations with the IMF. I am convinced that you will continue to lend us your support in our discussions with the World Bank.

.../...

The Right Honourable Margaret Thatcher,  
Prime Minister of the United Kingdom  
of Great Britain and Northern Ireland  
10 Downing Street - London SW1A 2AA -

I am hoping that we can count on the active assistance of your Government and British businessmen in our endeavour to implement the measures resulting from the agreements I have mentioned in order to revive economic activity and reduce financial deficits.

In the light of your encouraging response in the past, it would be advisable to draw up a plan of assistance from Great Britain to the Republic of Cameroon.

Once more, Dear Prime Minister, I wish to express my heartfelt gratitude.

Yours sincerely,



Paul BIYA

The seal is circular and contains the following text: "REPUBLIQUE UNIE DU CAMEROON" at the top, "UNITED REPUBLIC OF CAMEROON" in the middle, and "PRESIDENT" and "PRESIDENCE DE LA REPUBLIQUE" at the bottom.



01.11

80

CEK

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

No. 665/ECL/DC1/88

CD 157 vii

The Embassy of the Republic of Cameroon presents its compliments to the Vice Marshal of the Diplomatic Corps of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and has the honour to enclose, for onward transmission to its high destination, a letter to the Hon. Margaret Thatcher, Prime Minister from President Paul BIYA of Cameroon.

The Embassy of the Republic of Cameroon avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Vice Marshal of the Diplomatic Corps the assurances of its highest consideration.

↓

London, 12th December 1988

The Vice Marshal of the Diplomatic Corps,  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office,  
London SW1.

re received 13/12  
For dft from  
PS to re cover  
PL



13/12

PRIME MINISTER  
PERSONAL MESSAGE  
SERIAL No. T.166.C/88



Subject: cc *Masters + ops*

*Republique du Cameroun*

*Le Président  
de la République*

A 325/CAB/PR

Yaoundé, le 14 NOV 1988

Dear Prime Minister,

I am pleased to acknowledge receipt of your letter of 16 september informing me that your commitments in september and october could not permit you to see me during a brief working stay I considered making in London.

I do appreciate your kind consideration and I know I can always count on your country in our endeavour to implement our structural adjustment programme recently approved by the International Monetary Fund.

I hope to meet you soon to pursue our discussions on matters of mutual interest.

With best wishes,

Yours sincerely,

  
Paul BIYA

The Right Honourable Margaret THATCHER  
Prime Minister  
10 Downing Street  
London SW1A 2AA



File 1/10  
cc to PC

10 DOWNING STREET  
LONDON SW1A 2AA

*From the Private Secretary*

16 September 1988

CAMEROON

The Prime Minister has signed a message to President Biya, explaining that sadly she cannot see him during his planned visit to London.

I enclose the message and should be grateful if you could arrange for its delivery.

CHARLES POWELL

R. N. Peirce Esq.,  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

off

PRIME MINISTER'S  
PERSONAL MESSAGE  
SERIAL No. T142/88



SUBJECT  
CC MASTER  
CPS

file Shw  
cc to  
S/C

10 DOWNING STREET  
LONDON SW1A 2AA

THE PRIME MINISTER

16 September 1988

*Dear Mr. President*

I understand from our Embassy in Yaounde and your Ambassador here in London that you were considering making a brief stay in London on your way to New York for the United Nations General Assembly. I recall our exchange of correspondence on your government's commitment to a programme of economic restructuring, and am very sorry that my own commitments at the end of September and in October mean that I cannot see you on this occasion, as I would have wished. It is a very busy time here with our own Party Conference coming up shortly. I hope you will understand, and that we can meet again before too long.

With best wishes,

*Yours sincerely*

*Ronald Reagan*

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

*LL6*



10 DOWNING STREET

Prime Minister

I have said  
that you are simply  
too busy to see  
any more foreign  
visitors at that time.

"See Mr. Pender"

CAP.



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

15 September 1988

008  
ccp

Dear Charles

President Biya of Cameroon

We discussed Yaounde telno 223 which said that President Biya of Cameroon had proposed to pay a short visit to London on his way to New York for the UN General Assembly and had requested a call on the Prime Minister on 26 September.

The request was also conveyed in London by the Cameroon Ambassador on 14 September. In view of the Prime Minister's heavy diary commitments he was informed that, with regret, the Prime Minister would be unable to receive the President. We were also not able to offer alternative appointments with the Foreign Secretary or Mrs Chalker since they will both be away in New York and Brussels respectively on that date.

You will recall that the Prime Minister exchanged substantive correspondence with President Biya earlier this year encouraging Cameroon to undertake an IMF approved Structural Adjustment Programme and assuring him of our support in the international financial institutions for a good programme. This is to come before the IMF Board for the first time on 19 September and we believe that President Biya's proposal for a meeting with the Prime Minister was probably motivated by his wish to seek further reassurance and support from her on the wisdom of this course. It would be helpful therefore to ensure that President Biya realises that there is no political significance in the refusal of his request and we believe that a short friendly message from the Prime Minister would suffice to allay any doubts he may have. I enclose a draft.

Yours ever

(R N Peirce)

Private Secretary



JWZAJQ

DRAFT MESSAGE FROM PRIME MINISTER TO PRESIDENT BIYA

I understand from our Embassy in Yaounde and your Ambassador here in London that you were considering making a brief stay in London on your way to New York for the *United Nations* General Assembly. I recall our exchange of correspondence on your government's commitment to a programme of economic restructuring, and am very sorry that my own ~~diary~~ commitments at the end of September and in October mean that I cannot see you on this occasion, as I would ~~have~~ <sup>wish</sup> have wished. It is a very busy time here with our own Party Conference coming up shortly. I hope you will understand, and that we can meet again before too long.

*with best wishes*  
*ed*

141652Z SEND MEM SVA

PAGE 01

REC MES OVMDIN 0133 CRN:072547 RXD:141055Z

Page:01 of 01

[REC MES] [OVMDIN 0133] [1]

ZCZC

OVMDIN 0133

CONFIDENTIAL

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FM YAOUNE TO FCOLN

131313Z SEP

GRS 269

CONFIDENTIAL

FM YAOUNDE AMENDED DISTRIBUTION 141051Z SEP

TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TELNO 223

OF 131313Z SEPTEMBER 88

INFO ROUTINE UKMIS NEW YORK, PARIS

FOR WAD - AND MISS TOUGH, HEADS OF MISSION SECTION, POD.

1. MINISTER FOR EXTERNAL RELATIONS, JACQUES BOOH BOOH TOLD ME THIS MORNING THAT PRESIDENT BIYA PLANS TO VISIT THE U.N. LATER THIS MONTH AND THAT HE WISHES TO BREAK HIS JOURNEY IN LONDON.
2. ACCORDING TO BOOH BOOH THE PRESIDENT, ACCOMPANIED BY MADAME BIYA AND AN ENTOURAGE OF ABOUT 50 PERSONS, WILL TRAVEL TO UK BY PRESIDENTIAL AIRCRAFT, ARRIVING ON EITHER SATURDAY 24 OR SUNDAY 25 SEPTEMBER. (THE MINISTER UNDERTOOK TO PROVIDE PRECISE TRAVEL DETAILS AS SOON AS THEY ARE AVAILABLE FROM THE PRESIDENCY.) CAMEROON'S AMBASSADOR IN LONDON HAS BEEN INFORMED AND HAS BEEN ASKED TO MAKE THE NECESSARY ARRANGEMENTS.
3. ALTHOUGH THE VISIT IS A PRIVATE ONE, PRESIDENT BIYA WOULD LIKE TO TAKE THE OPPORTUNITY TO CALL ON THE PRIME MINISTER. HE HAS ASKED WHETHER MRS THATCHER COULD RECEIVE HIM AT ANY TIME CONVENIENT TO HER ON MONDAY 26 SEPTEMBER. I SHOULD BE GRATEFUL IF YOU COULD LET ME KNOW THE ANSWER TO THIS REQUEST AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.
4. BOOH BOOH COULD PROVIDE NO FURTHER DETAILS AT THIS STAGE, EXCEPT THAT HE UNDERSTOOD THAT THE PRESIDENT AND MRS BIYA WOULD CONTINUE TO NEW YORK BY CONCORDE ON THE MORNING OF 27 SEPTEMBER, WHILE THE REMAINDER OF THE PARTY TRAVELLED SEPARATELY. THE US DCM HAS CONFIRMED THAT PRESIDENT BIYA IS EXPECTED TO MEET SECRETARY OF STATE SHULTZ ON THE AFTERNOON OF 30 SEPTEMBER, SHORTLY BEFORE HIS RETURN TO CAMEROON.
5. I SHOULD BE GRATEFUL IF HEADS OF MISSION SECTION COULD NOTIFY H M AMBASSADOR, CURRENTLY ON HOME LEAVE.
6. FCO PLEASE PASS.

OSBORNE

YYYY

ADVANCE 2

HD/WAD

HOMS/POD

1

1

*Rue Minister*

*I have said that you simply cannot see any more foreign visitors with us*

*mt*

MAIN	54	
LIMITED		6
WAD		6
HOMS/POD		1
ERD		5
OADS		24
PS		7
PS MRS CHALKER		1
PS/PUS		1
MR MUNRO		1
MR FAIRWEATHER		1
CHENRY/0677173		
DELNBN 0744		1
QVMDIN 0133		

RD 141407Z Dum Com SDP Successful  
SVA:01 MSS:99 MIS:50 PTR:00 DEF:09

SYSTEMS:17 141652Z

Additional

PS N° 10

PRIME MINISTER'S  
PERSONAL MESSAGE  
SERIAL No. 1038/88.....



SUBJECT cc MASTER  
OPS

10 DOWNING STREET  
LONDON SW1A 2AA

THE PRIME MINISTER

10 May 1988

Dear Mr. President,

Thank you for your letter of 25 March outlining your Government's economic policies. I should also like to offer you my warm good wishes for your new term of office following the Presidential elections on 24 April.

I was particularly interested to hear of Cameroon's current contacts with the International Monetary Fund and World Bank, and of your Government's commitment to economic restructuring. The path you have chosen is not an easy one, but I believe that it offers the best chance of sustainable long term growth. For our part we shall be very ready to support Cameroon in the international financial institutions on the basis of a good Fund programme which addresses the problems which you describe.

It is clearly important that our two countries should continue in close touch during the important period which lies ahead. I strongly share the views you express about the importance of continued close cooperation. For this reason I am glad that the Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, Mrs Lynda Chalker, will be visiting Cameroon on 13-14 July when I know she looks forward very much to meeting you and to hearing more about your plans.

Yours sincerely  
Lynda Chalker

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

88



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

9 May 1988

Dear Charles,

Cameroon/IMF

You sent me with your letter of 11 April a copy of a message to the Prime Minister from President Biya of Cameroon about his economic problems and requesting UK support in the IMF and World Bank.

I enclose a draft reply. This was delayed so that account could be taken of the results of the Cameroon Presidential elections and the re-election of Biya (who was in fact the sole candidate).

It is encouraging that President Biya appears at last to be nerving himself for an approach to the Fund to prepare the way for the economic reform programme which Cameroon badly needs. Cameroon has considerable long-term resources and if it can make the best use of them its future should be bright. The measures required are, however, likely to take time. We remain ready to support Cameroon in the international financial institutions subject to our judgement of the technical merits of their programme. But we should avoid getting involved in technical discussions with them over the contents of their programme: that is for the IMF/IBRD.

Mrs Chalker is planning to include Cameroon in a visit to West Africa in July. Biya's present moves make these plans especially timely, given that the IMF proposed Standby Arrangement is likely to be before the Fund Board in June/July. The enclosed draft accordingly encourages President Biya to pursue this exchange during Mrs Chalker's visit.

I am copying this letter and its enclosure to Alex Allan and Myles Wickstead.

*long ever / L Parker*  
(L Parker)  
Private Secretary

C D Powell Esq  
PS/No 10 Downing Street

DSR 11 (Revised Sept 85)

DRAFT: minute/letter/teleletter/despach/note

TYPE: Draft/Final 1 +

FROM:

Reference

DEPARTMENT:

TEL. NO:

Your Reference

BUILDING:

ROOM NO:

SECURITY CLASSIFICATION

- Top Secret
- Secret
- Confidential
- Restricted
- Unclassified

TO:

Copies to:

H.E. <sup>M.</sup> Paul Biya GCMG

President of the Republic of  
Cameroon

*REATTU*

SUBJECT:

PRIVACY MARKING

..... In Confidence

CAVEAT .....

Thank you for your letter of 25 March outlining your Government's economic policies. I should also like to offer you my ~~very~~ <sup>good</sup> warmest wishes ~~on~~ <sup>for</sup> your new term of office following the Presidential elections on 24 April.

I was particularly interested to hear of Cameroon's current contacts with the International Monetary Fund and World Bank, and of your Government's commitment to economic restructuring. The path you have chosen is not an easy one, but I believe that it offers the best chance of sustainable long term growth. For our part we shall be very ready to support Cameroon <sup>E</sup> ~~in the spirit of our~~ ~~traditionally close and friendly links~~ <sup>J</sup> in the International financial institutions, on the basis of a good Fund programme which addresses the problems which you describe. ~~Such a programme will put the resources of the institutions at your disposal.~~

Enclosures flag(s) .....

RS1ACS

*gh.*

It is clearly important that our two countries should continue in close touch during the important period which lies ahead. I strongly share the views you express about the importance of continued close cooperation. For this reason I am [particularly] glad that the Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, Lynda Chalker, will be visiting Cameroon on 13-14 July when I know she looks forward very much to meeting you *and to hearing more about your plans*



10 DOWNING STREET  
LONDON SW1A 2AA

*From the Private Secretary*

11 April 1988

I enclose a copy of a message to the Prime Minister from the President of Cameroon about the economic problems of African states in general and Cameroon in particular, seeking our help with the IMF and the World Bank. It also deals with one or two wider aspects of our relations.

I should be grateful for a draft reply in due course. I am copying this letter and enclosure to Alex Allan (HM Treasury) and Myles Wickstead (Overseas Development Administration).

(C. D. POWELL)

Lyn Parker, Esq.,  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

SLW

11 BF

✓