

## Colonial administration records (migrated archives): Cameroon FCO 141/1595 to 141/1694

In 1916, Britain and France conquered Cameroons, which was at that time a German colony. After the First World War, Cameroons was divided and assigned to Britain and France under League of Nations mandates. French Cameroons became independent in 1960. British Cameroons was administered through Nigeria, which became independent in October 1960. French Cameroons also gained independence as the Republic of Cameroun during 1960.

In February 1961, a plebiscite was held in British Cameroons to decide if it should become part of Nigeria or the new Republic of Cameroun. As a result, Northern Cameroon became part of the Federation of Nigeria on 1 June 1961. Southern Cameroon joined the Republic of Cameroun on 1 October 1961.

Most of the files in the collection date from 1959-61 and concern

the plebiscite and subsequent arrangements.

These records complement a large number of files already held by The National Archives in CO 554, CO 656, CO 852, CO 936, FO 371, DO 35 and DO 117

### **Plebiscite in Southern and Northern Cameroons**

These records relate to the period between the general election in January 1959 and the plebiscite of February 1961 to decide on the future of the territory. They include discussion of political developments and possible alternatives and outcomes for the plebiscite.

*Related material is in CO 554/1746-1757, 2340-2352, etc and FO 371/154687-154700, 160891*

FCO 141/1595, 1597-1598: future administration of the Northern Cameroons and proposed timetable for Plebiscites in Northern and Southern Cameroons 1959: notes and memoranda on political and constitutional development, correspondence with UK Mission, New York, (8cm).

FCO 141/1605: Northern Cameroons Trust Territory Plebiscite 1959; (1.5cm).

FCO 141/1621: the future and separation of Southern Cameroons 1959; correspondence and reports following 1959 election (2cm).

FCO 141/1624: The Mamfe conference, 10-11 August, 1959; South Cameroons plebiscite 1959; report and correspondence (2cm).

FCO 141/1643: administration of the Plebiscite in Northern and Southern Cameroons 1958-59; correspondence on arrangements, notes of meetings (2.5cm).

FCO 141/1654: forthcoming Plebiscites in Northern and Southern Cameroons 1961; notes and correspondence on significance of possible outcome (2.5cm).

FCO 141/1662-1663: constitutional position of Southern Cameroons after Plebiscite 1960-61; correspondence, reports, memoranda (5cm).

FCO 141/1674: Southern Cameroons Plebiscite 1959-60; correspondence relating to arrangements, possible alternative offered, etc (2cm).

FCO 141/1675: representations regarding the result of the Southern Cameroons Plebiscite 1961; representations of those opposed to unification with Republic of Cameroun (1cm).

## **Southern Cameroons**

These records concern the administration of the outcome of the plebiscite and the decision to join the Republic of Cameroun

FCO 141/1601: financial arrangements on separation of Southern Cameroons 1960-61; correspondence and reports (1.5cm).

FCO 141/1609: income tax and emoluments of the Commissioner of the Southern Cameroons 1959-61 (0.5cm).

FCO 141/1613, 1613, 1622: South Cameroons public service 1960-61 (3.5cm).

FCO 141/1625: immigration and emigration of aliens in Southern Cameroons 1961 (few pages only).

FCO 141/1635: repatriation of Southern Cameroonians 1960 (few pages only).

FCO 141/1641: transitional arrangements to facilitate assimilation into trade relations of United Cameroons after 1 October 1961 (few pages only).

FCO 141/1645: personal security measures of expatriates and commercial community in Southern Cameroons 1961 (1cm).

FCO 141/1656: separation of Southern Cameroon from the Federation of Nigeria; arrangements concerning Nigeria police 1960-61 (1cm).

FCO 141/1664, 1665, 1667-1673: Southern Cameroons Plebiscite: implementation post-plebiscite, security arrangements, currency problems, political parties 1960-61 (14cm).

FCO 141/1678: French consular activities in Southern Cameroons after 30 September 1961 1961 (few pages only).

FCO 141/1679: establishment of Nigerian Commission in Southern Cameroon 1960-61 (few pages only).

FCO 141/1692: arrangements for civilians to leave Southern Cameroons 1961 (few pages only).

FCO 141/1693: press reports on Southern Cameroons 1961 (few pages only).

FCO 141/1640: transmission of British Information Services material after the accession of Southern Cameroon to Republic of Cameroun by British Embassy at Yaoundé, Cameroun 1961 (few pages only).

### **Constitutional development in Southern Cameroons**

FCO 141/1600, 1604, 1617: Constitutional Conferences 1955-56 (6cm).

FCO 141/1642: Constitutional proposals for unification and transfer of sovereignty 1961 (2.5cm).

FCO 141/1646: draft Instruments regarding The Southern Cameroons (Constitution) Order in Council 1960 1960-61 (2.5cm).

FCO 141/1657-1659: constitutional position of the Southern Cameroons if electing to become a part of the Federation of Nigeria 1955-61; correspondence and reports in period before to 1961 plebiscite (7cm).

### **Northern Cameroons**

FCO 141/1610: future of Northern Cameroons under British Trusteeship 1958-59; considerations leading to plebiscite and possible incorporation into Nigeria (2cm).

### **Intelligence, security and defence**

FCO 141/1608: Tombel massacre; killing of 12 Cameroons Development Corporation labourers 1961; reports of incident (0.5cm).

FCO 141/1619: defence of Southern Cameroons 1960-61; correspondence and reports on security; (2.5cm).

FCO 141/1633: fugitive offenders; Anglo-Israeli and Anglo-German extradition agreements 1960 (0.25cm).

FCO 141/1683: Southern Cameroons Joint Intelligence Committee reports 1959-61; political reports on subversion, communism, labour, security (2.5cm).

FCO 141/1686: diplomatic representative in Buea, Southern Cameroons 1961 (few pages only).

FCO 141/1687: annual report to the United Nations, 1960 1960 (few pages only).

FCO 141/1638: apprenticeships and applications to join Royal Air Force 1958-61 (few pages only).

### **Government/administration**

FCO 141/1606: suzerainty of clan chiefs; Bamenda Province 1944-54 (0.5cm).

FCO 141/1612: administration of the Cameroons Province 1940-49; includes intelligence reports of West Africa Political Intelligence Centre (1.5cm).

FCO 141/1615: the Commission of Inquiry into the conduct of some members of the House of Assembly 1960; case of bribery for political allegiance (2cm).

FCO 141/1626: under UK administration and after separation from Nigeria 1959-60 (2cm).

FCO 141/1627: correspondence concerning individuals; deaths, estate claims, property, consular assistance, marriage claims 1954-61 (2cm).

FCO 141/1628: Her Majesty's Overseas Civil Service appointments competition 1961 (few pages only).

FCO 141/1636: inauguration of Dr N Azikiwe as Governor-General of the Federation of Nigeria 1960 (0.25cm).

FCO 141/1637: Pensions Bill; draft 1961 (few pages only).

FCO 141/1651: correspondence with Her Britannic Majesty's Ambassador at Yaoundé 1960-61 (0.25cm).

FCO 141/1660: personal correspondence between Governor General of the Federation of Nigeria, Sir James Robertson and Commissioner of the Cameroons, Mr J O Field 1955-60; includes series of 'secret and personal' reports by Field (2.5cm).

FCO 141/1676: development of Her Majesty's Overseas Civil Service 1956-60 (2cm).

FCO 141/1682: biographical notes on Ministers for the Colonial Office 1958-60; by individual, John Foncha, etc (1cm).

## **External/Foreign Relations**

FCO 141/1599: annual review of the Republic of Cameroon, 1960 and summaries of Yaoundé despatches 1961; political intelligence reports (2cm).

FCO 141/1602: Nigeria fortnightly summaries and a report on the celebration of Nigerian Independence and the visit of Her Highness Princess Alexandra 1960-61; intelligence reports on political and economic developments (2cm).

FCO 141/1614: visit of Mr Macmillan, Prime Minister of the UK, to Nigeria, 11-18 January 1960 1959 (few pages only).

FCO 141/1618: United Nations General Assembly; resumed Thirteenth Session report on the Fourth Committee, 20 February-13 March 1959 1959; concerns proposed plebiscite in Southern Cameroons (1cm).

FCO 141/1620: report on the UK Aid Mission to the Somali Republic 1961; report on independence (1cm).

FCO 141/1681: establishment of American Consulate General in Southern Cameroons 1960-61 (few pages only).

FCO 141/1685: external affairs of the Republic of Cameroons 1960-61; reports of incidents on border with Cameroun Republic (2cm).

FCO 141/1632: plight of overseas distressed Cameroonians 1961 (few pages only).

FCO 141/1652: congratulatory message to Sierra Leone on its independence 1961 (few pages only).

FCO 141/1653: disallowing French ships from using Nigerian ports and transit rights 1961 (few pages only).

FCO 141/1655: petitions to the United Nations against the continued predominance of Nigerians in public service in Northern Cameroon 1960-61 (0.5cm).

FCO 141/1666: annual report to the United Nations 1959 1959-61; correspondence (0.5cm).

FCO 141/1671: British Consulate, Duala and British Ambassador Yaoundé despatches to High Commissioner 1955-60 (few pages only).

FCO 141/1677: Cameroonian representation in London 1961 (few pages only).

FCO 141/1680: Nigeria fortnightly summary and reports from UK High Commissioner at Lagos 1961; political reports (1cm).

### **Economic development/statistics**

FCO 141/1661, 1694: participation of Colonial Development Corporation in Cameroons Development Corporation 1957-60 (3cm).

FCO 141/1688-1689: statistical appendices for the annual report to the United Nations, 1959 and 1960 1960-61; correspondence and draft tables (1cm).

FCO 141/1690-1691: departmental report of statistical returns for Cameroons to Trusteeship Council, 1955, 1956-59; draft tables reply to Trusteeship questionnaire (4cm).

Colonial administration records (migrated archives) guidance

### **Nationality/passports/immigration**

FCO 141/1607: passport and citizenship questions about Cameroons separation 1960 (0.5cm).

FCO 141/1623: British passport application by Mr R Dibonge 1961 (few pages only).

FCO 141/1629, 1684: application for naturalisation as a citizen of the UK by Mr J van Biesen 1958-61 (1cm).

FCO 141/1630: enquiry about visas by Dr E M Endeley 1960.

FCO 141/1634: repatriation of non Cameroonians 1960-61 (few pages only).

FCO 141/1648-1650: issue and renewals of passports 1956-61; correspondence on individual cases (8cm).

FCO 141/1639: nationality and immigration matters 1960-61; individual visa applications (0.5cm).

FCO 141/1644: immigration formalities for travel between South Cameroons and the Cameroun Republic 1961 (0.5cm).

FCO 141/1647: British Nationality Act, 1948 and 1958 1948-58 (1cm).

### **Other**

FCO 141/1603: plantations manuscripts management; arrangements for German nationals 1939-40; correspondence of Plantations Department (4cm).

FCO 141/1611: correspondence regarding Basel Mission Trading Company at Rio Del Rey 1922-24; correspondence relating to sequestration (1cm).