

# **Chronology of British Southern Cameroons aka AMBAZONIA History**

## **1884 to 1916 – German Occupation**

German Governors of German Kamerun

1884 Gustav Nachtigal

1887–1906 Jesko von Puttkamer - Built a 72-Bedroom home in Buea, Kamerun to convince his wife to move from Germany. The building still stands today.

1914–1916 Karl Ebermaier

Cameroons - German Kamerun was an African colony of the German Empire from 1884 to 1916 comprising parts of today's Cameroon, + parts of Nigeria, Tchad, Central African Republic, Congo, Gabon

Most of German Kamerun shared between Britain and France

## **1914 - 26 September 1914 Occupation by Great Britain and France begins**

## **1945 - Post World Wars - League of Nations => United Nations - Decolonization begins**

1948 - UPC (Union des Populations Camerounaises) a party that wanted Independence from France with no strings IS CREATED in French Cameroun

Actors:

British Cameroons Colonial Officer i/c

1949 to 1 October 1954 Edward John Gibbons, Special Resident

1 October 1954 Autonomous territory within Colony and Protectorate of Nigeria

1 October 1954 to 1956 Edward John Gibbons, Commissioner

1956 to 1 October 1961 John Osbaldiston Field, Commissioner

1 June 1961 Northern British Cameroons incorporated into Federation of Nigeria

1 October 1961 Southern British Cameroons incorporated into Republic of Cameroon

1952 - The KNC (Kamerun National Congress) was established in 1952 as a merger of two pro-unification parties, the Kamerun United National Congress and the Cameroons National Federation. The party's leaders included E. M. L. Endeley, Salomon Tandeng Muna, John Ngu Foncha and Sampson George. However, with Endeley leading the party towards a pro-Nigerian stance,

1955 - Foncha led a breakaway group to form the Kamerun National Democratic Party (KNDP) in 1955.

Another breakaway led to the formation of the Kamerun People's Party (KPP). The KPP was established as a breakaway from the Kamerun National Congress (KNC), when a faction led by Nerius Mbile, P. M. Kale, and Motomby-Woleta disagreed with KNC leader E. M. L. Endeley's decision to demand autonomy from the National Council of Nigeria and the Cameroons.

1957 - The KNC received 45% of the vote in the 1957 parliamentary elections, winning six of the 13 seats and emerging as the largest party in the House of Representatives.

The 1959 elections saw the KNC run in an alliance with the KPP. The alliance received 37% of the vote, winning 12 of the 26 seats, of which the KNC took eight.

However, the KNDP won the elections with 14 seats.

1958 - May 25, 1958 - Dr. EML Endeley forewarns about union with French Cameroun in a speech

1960 - The KNC and KPP merged in 1960 to form the Cameroon People's National Convention (CPNC).

NOTE: On the eve of Independence, British Southern Cameroons aka AMBAZONIA had a party in power - KNDP and a reasonable opposition party - CPNC.

## **1960 - French Cameroun gains Independence (per UN records)**

- Union National Camerounaise - UNC or Cameroun National Union (CNU) Party was created in French Cameroun - with the French handpicked President Amadu Ahidjo becomes the Chairman of this One "State" Party.

NOTE: This is the ONE-PARTY in the ONE-PARTY SYSTEM POLICY supported by the FRENCH. A party they have control of ... not like the UPC formed by French Cameroun citizens back in 1948 with a policy position that France did not care for. Officially the UPC party was banned and its members hunted down and nipped.

1961 - September 18, 1961 Dag Hammarskjold Swedish UN Secretary General dies in Zambia

1961 - January 22, 1961, Alhaji Sir Abubakar Tafawa Balewa, Prime Minister of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, addressed the people of Southern Cameroons via Radio Nigeria. He reassured them of their future if they decided in the plebiscite to rejoin Nigeria and also presented them with the stark choice before them:

## **1961 - British Cameroons (Northern and Southern) UN "Independence By Joining" Plebiscite October 1, 1961.**

British Northern Cameroons goes with Nigeria, and British Southern Cameroons goes with French Cameroun - where there was an ongoing civil war between the French-imposed govt of French Cameroun and members of the UPC

Prime Minister of British Southern Cameroons aka AMBAZONIA

John Ngu Foncha    1 October 1961 -    13 May 1965                      KNDP

## **1962 – 1971: Federal Republic of Cameroon (FRC)**

French Cameroun + British Southern Cameroons Experiment in a Federal Structure - Two States with EQUAL STATUS (French Cameroun + British Southern Cameroons renamed "East Cameroun" and "West Cameroon" - 2 separate govts, 2 Legal systems, 2 Education systems ... Federal Republic of Cameroon (FRC)

Prime Ministers of British Southern Cameroons aka AMBAZONIA

Augustine Ngom Jua 13 May 1965    -    11 November 1968    KNDP / UNC

Salomon Tandeng Muna 11 January 1968 -    2 June 1972                      UNC

The Vice President of Cameroon

1972 - The Vice President of Cameroon was a political position in Federal Republic of Cameroon. It was abolished in 1972 when the new constitution created the unitary state United Republic of Cameroon. The Vice President of Cameroon was English-speaking and the President of Cameroon was French-speaking during the existence of the office.

A history of the office holder follows.  
John Ngu Foncha 1961 - 1970  
Salomon Tandeng Muna 1970 - 1972

## **1972 - 1981: FRC renamed the Republique Unie du Cameroun (RUC) or United Republic of Cameroon (URC) in 1972**

## **1982 - Paul Biya takes over from Amadu Ahidjo as President of United Rep of Cameroun**

## **1984 - Paul Biya decrees a change of Name to simply Republic of Cameroon in 1984.**

### **April 6, 1984 – Coup d’Etat**

Army takes over in a coup d'etat ... Briefly. Reprisals as the coup fails. Biya entrenches further.

## **1984 - Gorji Dinka a Barrister and Traditional Chief issues THE NEW SOCIAL ORDER:**

Dinka introduces the name AMBAZONIA to replace British Southern Cameroons name, accuses Biya of "seceding" from the Union since he decreed a return to the name "Republique du Cameroun" which is French Cameroun Republic's name at Independence in 1960 ... On that date British Southern Cameroons aka AMBAZONIA was NOT part of French Cameroun. Dinka is pursued by Biya's govt and he (Dinka) escapes and goes on self-exile ... till today.

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### *Post-Scriptum:*

A few more citizens become active in pursuing what has now become "The Struggle" for the Restoration of the Independence of Ambazonia, and form groups, associations, political parties within and outside the country. Those within the country play by the rules as much as and as far as they are able to. But it is not until 1992 that the now called "Biya Regime" faces real Opposition and the whole teleguided policy of a ONE-PARTY SYSTEM in the Cameroons - sponsored and promoted by the French - begins to unravel.

## **1954: Interesting Observations by Mason Sears, the United States Representative on the Trusteeship Council, IN A MEMORANDUM to the Assistant Secretary of State for United Nations Affairs in New York June 3, 1954 ...**

Excerpt:

*“British Cameroons.* I spent a number of days at Buea with Brigadier Gibbons, who is the chief administrator of the territory. While there I had several talks with Dr. Endeley, leader of the Kamerun National Congress.

In the elections of last December his party won all of the 13 seats allotted to the Southern Cameroons in the Eastern Nigerian House of Assembly. This has given him a government without a minority, which in the end may spell his downfall.

At any rate, the main political fact of life in the Southern Cameroons is a widespread fear of the Ibo people who inhabit the adjoining Eastern Region of Nigeria. The Ibos are said to be the most politically aggressive people in West Africa. They are led by Dr. Azikwe and are many times more numerous than the people of the Southern Cameroons.

In consequence, the politicians in the Southern Cameroons feel that if they join in any way with their neighbors in Nigeria they will lose forever all political identity.

On the other hand, the Moslem people of the North are as one with the Northern people of Nigeria. This puts Dr. Endeley in a difficult position. At present he admits that **because of the French policy of gradual assimilation into the French way of life, there is no immediate prospect of independence for the French Cameroons. This means that since he cannot, as a nationalist leader, advocate the placing of his people under French control, and since he is unwilling to join the Ibos to the West under Nigerian control, he has no alternative except to let the North go its own way, while he asks the South to remain under British control. His people would thus represent such a small fragmented group as to raise the question of whether he can get the necessary backing from any source to accomplish such a limited purpose.**

On the other hand, Brigadier Gibbons intimated that before the next elections, two years from now, it was not impossible that a minority might develop in the Southern Cameroons which could lead to the ultimate association of the entire Cameroons as a federated part of a new and independent Nigeria.”

Source:

<https://history.state.gov/historicaldocuments/frus1952-54v03/d883>