

PART I.

THE ANGLOPHONE LINGUISTIC MINORITY PROBLEM IN CAMEROON

The Anglophone linguistic minority problem in Cameroon consists of:

- The Marginalization of the Anglophone linguistic minority in Cameroon by the francophone majority.
- The bad and disproportional representation of the Anglophones in government i.e. public service and the military in the Anglophone regions of Cameroon and
- The gradual eradication of the English culture in the Anglophone regions of Cameroon which is assimilation.

ROOT CAUSES OF THE ANGLOPHONE PROBLEM

The root cause of the Anglophone problem in the republic of Cameroon is the independence or federation of southern Cameroon that took place in October 1st 1961 through a plebiscite or referendum. Today it is believed by many Anglophones that what happened in 1961 was an annexation of Southern Cameroon by la republic du Cameroon and not independence. The Anglophones were asked two basic questions at independence:

- 1) "Do you want to achieve independence by joining the Nigerians" or
- 2) "Do you want to achieve independence by joining La republic du Cameroon".

-They were not asked "if they wanted to achieve independence by being on their own". Anglophones in Cameroon today believe that, the referendum was poorly arranged. Others believe that there was a set up arranged for the annexation of southern Cameroon by la republic du Cameroon. Many claim there is no evidence that the country was not qualified at the time to achieve complete independence.

-The plebiscite that led to the creation of the federal republic of Cameroon was unilaterally changed later by Pres. AHMADO AHIDJO from a federal republic of Cameroon to united republic of Cameroon and then to republic of Cameroon. This strengthens the belief that there was a set up by la republic du Cameroon-the majority to gradually achieve their deal of annexing southern Cameroon. The objective of which was to dominate and exploit the rich resources of the Anglophone minority regions through a francophone centralized-dominated system of government or bad governance.