



The Cameroon Guerrilla Movement

The chroniclers of the "decolonization" of Africa are reserved in the extreme in treating of the history of Cameroon. If the object of their attention is the old Occidental French Africa, these observers are even ready to relate some aspects of the Guinean case — the unforgettable "no" to the 1958 referendum — and of the repercussions of the special statute of Togo. Cameroon is, on the contrary, a problematical story, and it is not strange that it be so.

Since 1955, the old German colony, divided after the Second World War in a great French protectorate and a smaller British one, has been an example of many things: delaying maneuvers for conceding independence, exaltation of figures destined to preside the pilot neo-colonial experiment, and development of a strong movement for national liberation, the Union of the Peoples of Cameroon, firmly rooted in the people and organizer of the anti-imperialist rebellion. Although repressed with a violence only comparable to that of Madagascar in 1947 and in Algeria start-

ing in 1954, the Cameroon guerrilla movement achieved the unmasking of the puppet government that was going to be inaugurated in Cameroon in January 1960. Mass assassinations of militants and the hunting down of UPC leaders both inside and outside of the country, could not prevent the celebrations organized by Mr. Ahmadou Ahidjo and his protectors from also turning into a blood bath.

With Ahidjo at the helm, the war continued, although under most difficult conditions, among other reasons because of the loss of leaders such as Ruben Um Nyobe and Felix Roland Moumie.

The consequences of independence granted by the old colonial powers in South Saharan Africa since the summer of 1960, were particularly felt in the ranks of UPC, that then had to face the true liberation of Cameroon. Nevertheless, the perseverance of the UPC leadership was so great that even the most conservative press was obliged to publish now and then some news about the clashes between the troops of Mr. Ahidjo and



the guerrillas "somewhere in the western part of the country."

In 1967, the occidental front finally consolidated under the leadership of Ernest Oundie, former vice-president and head of the organization since the death of Moumie, the Cameroon patriots decided to open a second front in the South, in a zone almost forgotten by the authorities of Yaounde — the same ones that now try to convince the world of the economic "boom", as they say, that Cameroon is experiencing today.

In a recent article published in "Le Monde Diplomatique," the journalist Philippe Decraene publishes a report on the "forgotten wars" of Africa. Among various cases, Decraene refers to the rebirth of the guerrillas in the south of Cameroon, although he prefers not to bite off more than he can chew and goes only as far as line three.

But the reality of the struggle goes beyond the caution of Decraene, of the silence of the occidental press agencies, of Ahidjo's and his allies' dreams. Headed by Ouandie in the West and by Woungly

Massaga in the South, the revolutionaries of Cameroon continue their march along the red trail of the river of the "Camaroes", as the first Portuguese visitors baptized their land.

Testimony of this struggle is the following interview offered by comrade Elan Tomas, one of the leaders of the Union of the Peoples of Cameroon Party, a party that is in the vanguard of the revolutionary struggle of that country.

1. Comrade Elan Tomas, what is the present situation of your country?

Answer: Our country at present is going through a reign of terror and bloodshed, governed by a fascist lackey, Ahmadou Ahidjo, a lackey of French imperialism. The French-African Army daily massacres the population, exploits all the riches of the country on behalf of the imperialist with the Yankee imperialist at their head.

2. Comrade, we have received some news referring to the activities of the Second Guerrilla Front in Cameroon. Who are



the leaders and what are the objectives of this front?

Answer: We opened this Second Front last year, led by Commander-in-Chief Massaga, member of the Revolutionary Committee of the UPC. As you know, the news about the activities of the Second Front are true. These first attacks have struck a hard blow against the French-African Army led by three French officers who died on the battlefield together with 60 mercenaries and several seriously wounded. The objectives of the Second Front are to identify the armed struggle in the whole territory of our country for the purpose of hastening the national liberation of the people of Cameroon and then building the country along the lines of scientific socialism.

3. What is the position of the OAU (Organization of Africa Unity) concerning the revolutionary struggle of the people of Cameroon?

Answer: I can tell you that the OAU is a syndicate of African Chiefs of State whose real objective is to smother the liberation movements of the continent. As for the position of the OAU concerning the Second Front, you must remember that the OAU is a reactionary organization that can never be in accord with the Second Front.

4. Now I would like to know what is your opinion on the struggle of the people of Viet-Nam against Yankee imperialism?

Answer: This struggle against Yankee imperialism is a very just struggle for the total liberation of the heroic Vietnamese people from the yoke of Yankee imperialism and its local lackeys. The struggle of the Vietnamese people is actually a heroic struggle of the Third World. I support the heroic struggle of the Vietnamese people in the name of my Party and in the name of the people of Cameroon.