



## Cameroon: To Make the Revolution

Woungly Massaga

AS ONE of the most important imperialist objectives on the African continent, Cameroon today presents the picture typical of neocolonial presence, sketched in economic underdevelopment, the suppression of all liberties and the exploitative action of international monopolies.

After ten years as a **formal republic**, Cameroon's essential features are characterized by the increase of repressive actions against the people, the dispatch of hundreds of

natives to concentration camps, and the presence of military forces whose members and directors are foreign mercenaries, as well as functionaries of a regime of bureaucrats that depletes the public funds.

Paradoxically, the evident symbol of neocolonial domination in Cameroon is the pretended territorial union conceived by imposing the so-called Federation, composed of the Republic of Cameroon (East Cameroon, today) and Meridian Cameroon (now West Cameroon). As in previous epochs, France maintains a virtual military occupation in the eastern region while, in the western zone, Great Britain hardly succeeds in dissimulating her economic, cultural, and political penetration.

In the midst of this situation, the United States does not hide its pretensions to Cameroon because of its very special geographic position between the western and central regions of Africa. There is no doubt that from its base of aggressive operations against the African people in Congo (Kinshasa), US imperialism is trying to create an axis with which it would try to solve all its problems in this region, and those of France as well.

At the same time, the people's vanguard represented by the fighters of the National Liberation Army, fighting arm of the Union of Cameroon People (UPC), continues facing up to the regime that loyally serves neocolonialist interests and the foreign forces occupying its territory, despite the reverses suffered and the maneuvers of the ruling classes to make the people's struggles fail.

Experience has strengthened our decision to move forward. We can reaffirm that our organization — whatever the difficulty may be — is not disposed to play at revolution but to make it. Whatever confusions might arise, and including the activities of the CIA, we can offer the certainty that the UPC will be heard from for a long time to come.

With these words, René Jacques Ngouo Woungly Massaga, member of the Revolutionary Committee of the Union of Cameroon People, proclaimed the decision of the Cameroon people to struggle to seize power and expel the neocolonialists.

During his recent stay in Havana, Massaga visited the headquarters of the Organization of Solidarity of the Peoples of Africa, Asia, and Latin America (OSPAAAL), where

he presented a full summary of the general situation in his country to the members of its Executive Secretariat.

The leader of the UPC referred basically to the difficulties suffered by the second guerrilla front opened by this organization at the beginning of the year 1966 in the southeast area of Cameroon, and of the conspiracies plotted by imperialism in an effort to smash the Cameroon revolutionary movement.

Massaga recalled that the activity of this guerrilla front ran into various difficulties, particularly at the end of 1969, but he reiterated the unshakable determination of the UPC to continue the struggle.

In another part of his statement to the members of the OSPAAAL Executive Secretariat, the revolutionary leader indicated that imperialism and the regime of Ahmadou Ahidjo have not ceased their maneuver against the guerrilla struggle nor the intrigues to create problems not only for the Union of Cameroon People, but also for certain other African countries in which dozens of Cameroon refugees are living.

In this regard he pointed out that the mere presence of refugees in a determined country cannot be imputed to the government of this country, but rather to the regime that forces the exodus of citizens.

Massaga continued by saying that the CIA, using false documents, has tried by every possible method to turn various independent African governments against the Union of Cameroon People, and at the same time to create division within the ranks of this organization. The member of the Revolutionary Committee of the UPC noted that the US Central Intelligence Agency centered its action chiefly against

the governments of the People's Republic of the Congo, Algeria, and Cuba.

As he exhibited one of the false documents in which the seal of the UPC appeared as well as the facsimile of his signature and his picture, the revolutionary leader asked:

How is it possible that US imperialism — and in this case the CIA, which at the beginning did not appear concerned with the Cameroon problem — is now much more interested than French imperialism itself?

Here in this document [Massaga specified] it is attempting as a primary objective to create antagonisms within the ranks of the UPC by means of the publication of accusations and attacks by certain of its leaders against others, in order to make them irreconcilable enemies; but this does not appear to be the most important aspect of the question.

Continuing, he explained that, in the same pamphlet, the CIA moves immediately to the attack against African countries and, in this case, selects the People's Republic of the Congo, trying to make it seem as though the leaders of the UPC themselves are revealing, indiscreetly, the **multiple activities** of their organization in that country, such as the existence of alleged training camps. "And then [he stressed] these activities are presented in the false document as if they were encouraged by Cuban advisers and military contingents."

Massaga noted that, as a consequence, the People's Republic of the Congo was presented as an ally of the Union of Cameroon People, offering every type of facility for organizing attacks against the Ahid-

jo regime.

The objective is clear [he added], we know that the US, which is solidly situated in Congo (Kinshasa) has tried in recent times, to create a hostile coalition against Congo (Brazzaville) which has faced aggressions and frequent attempts at a coup d'etat.

These facts are clear evidence that imperialism makes up all kinds of lies concerning the presence of Cameroon refugees in the People's Republic of the Congo.

With respect to the attacks against Algeria, he pointed out that they had intensified from the moment that Houari Boumedienne assumed the presidency of the Organization of African Unity (OAU). In his position as president of the OAU, Boumedienne sent a mission to Equatorial Guinea because of the grave situation arising in that country with respect to the former Spanish metropolis.

"And what did the CIA do about this mission? [asked Massaga.] It simply presented it, without the slightest shame, as a tripartite operation undertaken by Algeria, the UPC and, of course, Cuba with the presumed objective of sending armed contingents to Equatorial Guinea to support President Macías."

Contrary to the invention plotted by the CIA, the Union of Cameroon People never had any contact with authorities or other citizens of Equatorial Guinea.

Nevertheless [the Cameroon revolutionary leader recalled] some months after that operation, during which the United States Central Intelligence Agency formulated various attacks against

Algerian officials that had carried out the OAU mission, the French newspaper **Le Monde** announced, on January 5 of this year, the signing of agreements between the Federal Republic of Cameroon and the government of Santa Isabel, against the presence of subversive contingents in Equatorial Guinea. The CIA intentions had been taken seriously.

As far as Cuba is concerned, Massaga stated that the CIA, utilizing false documents whose content always shows indiscretions by the UPC, makes that country and other socialist nations appear as instigators in starting revolutionary movements against all the African governments.

Passing on to the present internal situation in his country, he pointed out that, in Cameroon, there are three essential questions: the vigilance of French imperialism, the relative weakness of their economic positions within the nation, and the fact that the UPC, in the midst of the crisis that has affected the Cameroon people since 1955, is and continues to be an indelible element.

The United States [Massaga noted] is presently struggling against the Union of Cameroon People to prove its affinity with neocolonialist French interests; it continues investing in Cameroon and systematically penetrating various national media with the aim of later installing its puppets.

Continuing, he emphasized that US imperialism knows that the UPC continues to be a factor on which the possibility or impossibility of installing puppet agents in Cameroon depends.

Our organization [he emphasized] is resolved to continue the struggle. We already have the experience of the opening of the second guerrilla front to give an impulse to this same struggle. We have temporarily succumbed to the attacks of two enemies. On the one side, our own weaknesses, and on the other the imperialist conspiracy.

The member of the Revolutionary Committee of the Union of Cameroon People, recalled that after the lesson of the second guerrilla front, the UPC is preparing to resume the offensive, whatever the difficulties may be.

Massaga referred then to the maneuvers of the regime in power in his country. In this respect, he indicated that, at the end of last March, the regime of Ahidjo proclaimed its third dictatorial mandate and, on that occasion, some speculated on the possibility of basing national hopes on the electoral process.

"However, we consider that this third five-year rule of Ahidjo will precisely give the opportunity for a greater deepening in the creation of a mass consciousness," the revolutionary leader stated.

He then affirmed that the Union of Cameroon People can do nothing less than to stress the necessity for revolutionary struggle, assured by the indispensable unity of its forces and by the particular attention to the problems of mass mobilization in the city as well as in the countryside.

"We can affirm to OSPAAAL and all the African patriots dedicated to the work of the liberation of Africa [Massaga concluded] that our organization is not disposed to play at revolution but to make the revolution."