

This essay entitled "**Response to Mr. Felix Zogo and Radio France Internationale (RFI)**" was inspired by an interview (appended below) that Mr. Felix Zogo, Adviser at the Ministry of Communication of La Republique du Cameroun accorded to Mr. Christophe Boisbouvier of RFI on October 17th, 2003.

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RESPONSE TO MR. FELIX ZOGO AND RADIO FRANCE INTERNATIONALE (RFI)

A good news organization and a good reporter takes time to gather independent information on a story or issue before embarking on interviews with players in the story. They research the facts and the views from both sides and demonstrate this understanding when conducting any interview with any of the players. Only by doing this is the listening public's interest served. Anything less makes a news organization and its reporter a mouthpiece for the propaganda of one side, and risk becoming one of those who Clare Short, the former British International Development Secretary says team up with the French, "to create genocides in Africa."

Radio France Internationale aired the interview that follows below on October 17th, 2003 at 0730 GMT. The interviewee was Mr. Felix Zogo, adviser to La Republique du Cameroun's Communications Minister, and the correspondent was Christophe Boisbouvier.

The interview demonstrates what a good news organization should not do, and exposes the correspondent as one who no journalism student should aspire to emulate. Mr. Zogo took good advantage of both to put out what no intelligent adviser should tell the public or feed his boss with, knowing that the facts of the story are a matter of public record and not just another King or Queen on the wall of the house of cards called La Republique du Cameroun.

Right from the start of the interview, the announcer's first comment and the correspondent's first question are based on a false assumption that the Southern Cameroons National Council (SCNC) is a "secessionist" organization.

The SCNC like all the other Southern Cameroons organizations is not a secessionist organization. They are all freedom fighters struggling to decolonize the people of the Southern Cameroons from a brutal French colonial occupation that has been relentlessly ravaging the lives and resources of the people of the Southern Cameroons for over 40years.

The first question someone new to our struggle and listening to the broadcast would ask and won't get an answer either from the announcer or the correspondent is: How did an English speaking country in Africa find itself under the control of the French? The answer to this question is not provided because the three men involved in the broadcast know something, which they want no one else to know.

October 1, mentioned in the so-called interview is not just another date on the calendar picked by Southern Cameroonians at random to demonstrate their colonial and slave status. October 1, 1961 is Independence Day for the Southern Cameroons, voted for by the UN in keeping with the status of the territory as a UN Trust Territory given to the United Kingdom to develop and lead to self "government or independence." Why the people of the former Trust Territory of the Southern Cameroons are not self governing or independent today is a story *Radio France Internationale* refuses to face up to, Christophe Boisbouvier is not bold enough to raise with Mr. Zogo, who himself cannot discuss with anyone including the man he is said to be an adviser to. It is a story even the BBC's Robin White would rather write on as if he is under some kind of influence (writing from one of the most corrupt countries in the world) than face its facts. But it is a story the people of the Southern Cameroons are going to tell to the world. The people of the Southern Cameroons are determined to fight and gain back all that has been lost to lies, blackmail, murder and cover ups. We will do this regardless of *Radio France Internationale*,

Monsieur Christophe Boisbouvier, the BBC and Monsieur Robin White; regardless of the UN and regardless of French Generals at work to stop us. There comes a time in the lives of a people when they must stand up and claim their rightful place among the peoples of the world. That time has come for the people of the Southern Cameroons.

Radio France Internationale is pretending to be a news organization when all it really is a part of the masquerade that France has developed to an art form since the Second World War hoping to make up for its defeat and occupation by Nazi Germany. This impresses no one but African dictators who have been coerced into sharing an affinity with France to hold back the progress of Africa and the black race.

The truth about France and her institutions of oppression is that, after her defeat and occupation by Nazi Germany in the Second World War, she realized that she had been left behind in the advances of the time. The only way to avoid becoming what its reality dictated she would become was to hold on to her colonial past, colonial peoples and colonial territories in Africa in order to perpetuate slavery forever. This was more in keeping with the status quo of the League of Nations and its racist classifications of the peoples of the world than with a UN regime that has a Universal Declaration of Human Rights. France knew this would work only if she kept the relationship with the United States of America and other civilized and progressive nations adversarial. She knew this antagonistic relationship would help her avoid being held to a higher standard. Nazi Germany played this type of game and France learned well and has instituted Vichy-type governments in Africa to help her stay afloat. Today, France has succeeded and has become an arrogant maniac with a double personality, able to wine and dine comfortably with murderous dictators in the world and at the same time maintain a seat in the most prestigious and respected places of authority in the world. It is a status that France has used to trot around the world with an inflated sense of self, challenging everyone's right and trampling on Africans as though Africa is God's gift to the Frenchman. Ms. Clare Short is correct when she says "France is involved in a conspiracy to keep Africa in poverty."

Mr. Zogo is a part of that conspiracy on the ground in Africa being interviewed by a media whose job it is to perpetuate it. In responding to a question why La République du Cameroun has not opened dialogue with the SCNC as the UN Secretary-General suggested, Mr. Zogo said, "When you are demanding something that threatens the integrity of the national territory, that demand does not have substance and is fundamentally unconstitutional."

Fact: 1)

The southwestern internationally recognized boundary of La République du Cameroun at "independence" ended at the River Mungo not Bakassi. All international boundaries were frozen at independence.

Fact: 2)

There is no document anywhere in the world that gives La République du Cameroun the right to the Southern Cameroons.

In the UN imposed plebiscite of 1961, the people of the Southern Cameroons, voted in THE TWO ALTERNATIVES to share only eight items with La République du Cameroun. Some experts have interpreted the second alternative which the people voted for to mean "a confederation of two states," each with its own autonomy. That is not what we have today. What we have today is colonization. Mr. Zogo needs to explain how the same La République du Cameroun whose southwestern borders ended at the Mungo River on January 1, 1960 has them extended to Bakassi today. Where the fundamentals of the argument are false, the "fundamentally unconstitutional" claim of La République du Cameroun put forward by Mr. Zogo is false.

The time for the truth to reign has come and if Radio France Internationale chooses to stand with the lie, we will differ knowing that "The truth is the mortal enemy of the lie, and thus by extension, the truth becomes the greatest enemy of the state." Quote from Dr. Joseph M. Goebbels - Hitler's propaganda minister. That truth is here now and the evil state imposed on us

must die because as Dr. Goebbels explains, "The lie can be maintained only for such time as the State can shield the people from the political, economic and or military consequences of the lie". The time for reckoning is here now and what the Nazi's Doctor says that, " It thus becomes vitally important for the State to use all of its powers to repress dissent," will no longer work against us. We can no longer take it.

Lastly, when Mr. Zogo says " We have actually heard that some SCNC youths have broken ranks with older SCNC leaders and we also heard that they are actually opposed to this wish for dialogue with the government," he is talking about the Interim Government of the Southern Cameroons formed in September of 2003 to lead the people of the Southern Cameroons by any means necessary out of colonial bondage and exploitation. This Interim Government agrees with Mr. Zogo that, " A demand that is based on giving up an entire part of the national territory cannot be the subject of any discussion." When the Interim Government has done its job, an inch of our national territory will not be in enemy hands. It was indeed Charles de Gaulle who said, " France, betrayed by her ruling and privilege classes, has embarked on the greatest revolution in all her history. At this very moment in the secrecy of her suffering, an entirely new France is rising, and she will be guided by new men." Those new men fought evil in France to become evil Frenchmen in Africa. Today the Interim Government of the Southern Cameroons-in-exile tells France and the rest of the world that: The Southern Cameroons betrayed by the UN, the British and her ruling and privileged classes, has embarked on the greatest revolution in all her history. At this very moment in the secrecy of her suffering an entirely new Southern Cameroons, with a new name, is rising and she will be guided by new men and women to a better future for herself, Africa and the world.

Augustine Ambe
Secretary of Media and Communications
Southern Cameroons Interim Government

HEADLINE:

CAMEROON: OFFICIAL REJECTS CLAIMS OF HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS AGAINST ANGOLPHONES

BODY:

The guest is Felix Zogo, adviser to Cameroon's Communications Minister. He reacts to the International Federation of Human Rights, IFHR Report, which denounces the government's repression of supporters of the secessionist Southern Cameroons National Council, SCNC. Correspondent Christophe Boisbouvier interviewed Mr. Zogo.

(Reporter) Good morning Mr. Felix Zogo.

Zogo) Good morning.

(Reporter)

For the past three years, the SCNC has been celebrating every 1 October their attempt to break away the Anglophone provinces from the country. This is usually followed by repression by Cameroonian law enforcement agents. Why is this so?

(Zogo) It should already be known that the SCNC itself is a completely marginal phenomenon in Cameroon. So, on the issue of knowing why there is a crackdown against them, you know that SCNC supporters are not always peaceful. There have been excesses during their demonstrations in the past. Government officials have been assassinated, security forces have been attacked, and the population have been looted and traumatized. The government is meeting its responsibility to prevent such acts from taking place and avoid them being repeated.

(Reporter) But this year, the two Anglophone provinces were literally placed under siege on 1 October, creating a situation where most people could not move about.

(Zogo) I think one also should not exaggerate. It is simply that a number of measures were taken this year to ensure that the people could go about their normal activities quietly.

(Reporter) The IFHR is accusing you of serious human rights violations. What is your response to that?

(Zogo) It could happen that, in the course of repressing these violent acts, such situations may unfortunately arise. But, I would like to simply tell you that Cameroon remains a country where the rule of law exists. There is a Justice Department and whenever these SCNC supporters are indicted, they appear before the country's courts, in which I have confidence; these have the legal powers and the final word on the matter.

(Reporter) But, in Kumbo there have actually been some ... (Reporter changes thought) ... Three demonstrators were killed on 1 October 2001.

(Zogo) Yes, following the outcome ... (Zogo changes thought) ... Maybe, I do not know if there were any deaths, but I would simply like to say that, when one is constrained to disperse a demonstration because it may degenerate into a worse situation, such a consequence may arise.

(Reporter) During UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan's visit to Yaoundé in 2001, he suggested that you should open a dialogue with the SCNC. Why have you rejected such a dialogue at this time?

(Zogo) You know that when you are demanding something that threatens the integration of national territory, that demand does not have substance and is fundamentally unconstitutional.

(Reporter) But Mr. Zogo, are you not interested in opening a dialogue before the SCNC youths become radical and it becomes too late?

(Zogo) We have actually heard that some SCNC youths have broken ranks with older SCNC leaders and we also heard that they are actually opposed to this wish for dialogue with the government. Now, I am asking this question in return, concerning dialogue: Who is finally rejecting dialogue? This is because the SCNC's internal crisis indeed affects the possibility of holding this dialogue.

(Reporter) For your part, will you be open to contacts with the SCNC executive if it makes a proposal to you?

(Zogo) As I said, a demand that is based on giving up an entire part of the national territory cannot be the subject of any discussion.

(Reporter) The government delegate in Kumba recently suggested to the SCNC to make themselves legal and submit to the democratic process. Is that a personal initiative, or are you confirming the government's backing of that proposal?

(Zogo) That is a situation on which a Cameroonian official is allowed to comment, but cannot commit any member of the cabinet.

(Reporter) Now, the separatists are saying that Anglophones are being marginalized in Cameroon.

(Zogo) No, I very sincerely do not think so. To give you a little insight, our compatriots of the two provinces, who form 20 per cent of the entire population, currently occupy 35 per cent of government and high-level civil service posts.

(Reporter) Now, it is true that, as a matter of tradition, Cameroon's prime minister is normally Anglophone, but many are saying that the real powers are not within the office of the prime minister and are rather at the presidency. They say, for instance, that one would never see an Anglophone secretary-general to the presidency.

(Zogo) That is like a prophecy. But, I have to tell you first of all that the prime minister is the head of the government.

(Reporter) Is one ever going to see an Anglophone secretary-general to the presidency?

(Zogo) Frankly speaking, I do not know. But I have already told you it is like a prophecy and I am not a prophet.

(Reporter) Mgr. (Christian) Tumi, who is himself of Anglophone origin, says that frustration has been mounting among the Anglophones since federalism was scrapped in 1972. Why not revert to federalism?

(Zogo) Federalism was not scrapped authoritatively. There had been a consultation involving all Cameroonians. So, reverting to a federal state as suggested by Tumi requires a constitutional mechanism. But, I am simply telling you that, for the crushing majority of Cameroonians, the issue is that of ensuring the continuation of a unitary state, taking into consideration specific aspects that may be regional, within the framework of a decentralized system.

(Reporter) You are talking about regionalizing and decentralizing, but the last Constitution, the 1996 Constitution, provides for the establishment of a Senate and the regionalized system. Why have these not materialized after seven years?

(Zogo) The decentralization issue is a high-precision work, which is currently in the final stages of materializing. I can only say that a little more patience should be maintained. I think that, since the Constitution makes provisions for these institutions, they will actually materialize.

(Reporter) But when?

(Zogo) I am not the one to determine that.

(Reporter) It is not just the Anglophones that are expressing discontent. The elite of the far north have also expressed their discontent, publishing a memorandum to that effect. Why not convene a meeting of the various regions on the issue of regionalization?

(Zogo) The roundtable, which is a forum, a national debate, has existed for more than 10 years now. That is a permanent debate on this issue.

(Reporter) Thank you Mr. Zogo.

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