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(Unofficial)

The following information from the Registry of the International Court of Justice is communicated to the Press:

On 30 May 1961, the Government of the Republic of Cameroun filed in the Registry of the International Court of Justice an Application instituting proceedings against the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

The Applicant founds the jurisdiction of the Court on Article 19 of the Trusteeship Agreement for the Territory of the Cameroons under British Administration, approved by the General Assembly of the United Nations on 13 December 1946.

The Application recites that the Territory of the Cameroons the administration of which had been entrusted to the United Kingdom under a mandate of the League of Nations was placed under international trusteeship by the Agreement approved by the United Nations in 1946.

Since then, the administration of the northern part of the Territory had tended simply to integrate it within the administrative system of the Northern Region of Nigeria and to separate the southern part of the Territory which, under the name of the Southern Cameroons, became a quasi-autonomous region of the Federation of Nigeria.

In its report to the Trusteeship Council in 1958, the United Nations Visiting Mission noted the immediacy of the question of the future of the populations of the Territory when those of the neighbouring territories of the Federation of Nigeria and of the Territory of the Cameroons under French Administration should achieve independence in 1960. At its resumed session in March 1959, the General Assembly of the United Nations had accepted the principle of separate plebiscites under United Nations supervision in the northern and southern parts of the Cameroons under British trusteeship.

The Republic of Cameroun alleges that the Northern Cameroons under British administration were not administered as a separate territory within an administrative union, but as an integral part of Nigeria; that the objectives set forth in Article 6 of the Trusteeship Agreement (the development of free political institutions, an increasing share for the inhabitants in the administrative services, their participation in advisory and legislative bodies and in the government of the Territory) were not attained; that the Trusteeship Agreement did not authorize the Administering Power to administer the Territory as two separate parts, contrary to the rule of unity, in accordance with two administrative systems and with separate political evolutions; that the provisions of § 7 of General Assembly Resolution 1473 (XIV) of 12 December 1959, relating to the separation of the administration of

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the Northern Cameroons from that of Nigeria, were not followed, and that the measures provided for in § 6 for further decentralization were not implemented; that the conditions laid down in § 4 of the Resolution for the drawing up of electoral lists were interpreted in a discriminatory manner; that the acts of the local authorities in the period preceding the plebiscite and during the election altered the normal course of that consultation and involved consequences in conflict with the Trusteeship Agreement.

The Applicant asks the Court to adjudge and declare that in the application of the Trusteeship Agreement of 13 December 1946 the United Kingdom has failed to respect certain obligations flowing therefrom.

The Hague, 1 June 1961