EQUATORIAL CUSTOMS UNION - CAMEROON

Notification under Article XXIV:7(a)

Text of Communication from the Mixed Commission of the ECU-CAMEROON

"The Governments of the Federal Republic of Cameroon, the Central African Republic, the Republic of the Congo (Brazzaville), the Gabon Republic and the Republic of Chad, recently advised the GATT that they wished to be deemed contracting parties to the General Agreement under the provisions of Article XXIV:5(c).

"Since the conditions set forth in the above-mentioned provision of the General Agreement have been met, the Executive Secretary advised that the Federal Republic of Cameroon, the Central African Republic, the Republic of the Congo (Brazzaville), the Gabon Republic and the Republic of Chad have become contracting parties; their rights and obligations under the General Agreement have taken effect for each of them starting from its date of accession to independence.

"With regard to the Gabon Republic, however, the notification of the Executive Secretary mentioned in the final paragraph 'the concessions specified in Section B of Schedule XI will henceforth comprise a new Schedule XLVII relating to Gabon (part not comprised in the Treaty Basin of the Congo) and formal provision for the establishment of this new schedule will be made through the procedure for certification of rectifications and modifications to the schedules to the General Agreement'.

"I have the honour to inform you that under the terms of a convention signed on 23 June 1959 at Brazzaville the Central African Republic, the Republic of the Congo, the Gabon Republic and the Republic of Chad formed a customs union among themselves within which the movement of merchandise, goods and capital is free. This union has taken the name of EQUATORIAL CUSTOMS UNION (ECU).

"Subsequently, after having considered as lapsed, as a result of the independence of the new States, the provisions of the Convention of St. Germain-en-Laye signed on 10 September 1919 by the United States of America, Belgium, the British Empire, France, Italy, Japan and Portugal, the Heads of State of the Republic of Cameroon, the Central African Republic, the Republic of the Congo, the Gabon Republic and the Republic of Chad, desirous of achieving an association between the Cameroons and the Equatorial Customs Union, signed a Protocol of Agreement at Bangui on 23 June 1961 which made provision for the following:
(a) the adoption of a common external customs tariff and its presentation in common to the competent international bodies;

(b) the signature of a convention regulating their commercial exchange system.

"The ECU-Cameroon common external customs tariff was put into effect simultaneously in the five States on 1 July 1962.

"The convention regulating the system of commercial exchanges was signed on 23 June 1961.

"A Joint ECU-Cameroon Commission, whose members include the Minister of Finance of each State, and over which I have the honour of presiding, ensures the proper application of the Common External Tariff and the Convention on commercial exchanges.

"I should be grateful if you would convey the above information, which is sent to you pursuant to the provisions of Article XXIV;7(a) of the General Agreement, to the Commission of the contracting parties.

"I am enclosing herewith the text of the Convention establishing the Equatorial Customs Union, the Protocol of Agreement signed on 23 June 1961 at Bangui, the ECU-Cameroon Common External Customs Tariff, the Convention Regulating Economic and Customs Relations between the member States of the Equatorial Customs Union and the Republic of Cameroon, and the rules of procedure of the Joint ECU-Cameroon Commission.

"Further, with special reference to the Gabon Republic, the entirely new situation resulting from the setting up of the ECU-Cameroon association makes pointless any reference to the previous situation and, in particular, to the concessions listed in Section B of Schedule XI. Moreover, that Schedule, which was negotiated by France in 1947 when Gabon was a dependent colonial territory, was never implemented in practice; there was no customs tariff in Gabon from 1940 to 1 July 1962, when the ECU-Cameroon Common External Customs Tariff was made effective."

\footnote{Not received. Copies have been requested from the Joint Commission.}
CONVENTION ESTABLISHING
THE EQUATORIAL CUSTOMS UNION

23 June 1959

(Brought up to date as of 1 January 1963)
TITLE I
THE CUSTOMS UNION

Article 1. The Central African Republic, the Republic of the Congo, the Gabon Republic, and the Republic of Chad hereby establish a Customs Union among themselves within which the movement of merchandise, goods and capital shall be free. This Union shall take the name of "EQUATORIAL CUSTOMS UNION".

CHAPTER I
Legislation and Regulations

Article 2. To this end, the States undertake to apply and to maintain common legislation and regulations with respect to duties and taxes upon entry into the customs union. The customs legislation and regulations shall be in conformity with the rules laid down by the authorities of the Community.

On the date of entry into force of this Convention, such common legislation and regulations shall consist of the customs legislation and regulations, including the customs and statistical nomenclature; the import customs tariff; the customs code; as well as the other customs texts and regulations in effect in the four States.

With respect to export duties and taxes concerning products common to two or more States, the Governments of the States undertake to hold consultations.

Article 3. Subject to the competence of the Community, such legislation and regulation may be modified only under the following conditions:

Proposals for modification shall be addressed to the Management Committee of the Customs Union provided for in Article 14 hereinafter, which shall examine them. If it adopts them unanimously, they shall become applicable under the conditions set forth in Article 4 hereinafter. If the opinion is unfavourable, the proposal may not be adopted by any of the signatory States.

In the other cases, the proposal shall be submitted to the Conference of the Heads of State for a decision.

Article 4. The proposals adopted by the Management Committee or the Conference of Heads of State shall be legally enforceable. They can enter into force only simultaneously in the four States.

In the case of emergency, the Management Committee may publish them according to the emergency procedure.
CHAPTER II

Apportionment of Import and Export Duties

Article 5. The proceeds from import duties and charges (import turnover duties and charges) levied by the customs offices upon entry into the territory of one of the contracting States shall be paid into the budget of the State in which the goods are declared as having entered into consumption.

The proceeds of export duties and charges levied by the customs offices on departure from the territories of the four contracting States shall be paid into the budget of the State in which the goods originated.

Article 6. In a spirit of co-operation and to take into account any errors made in declarations, a certain percentage of the import duties and charges specified in Article 5 and levied by the Common Offices shall be fixed annually by the Conference of the Heads of State on a proposal of the Management Committee of the Customs Union and paid into a Common Solidarity Fund.

"The proceeds of this Solidarity Fund shall be refunded to the contracting States according to the apportionment percentages to be set annually by the Conference of Heads of State on a proposal of the Management Committee of the Customs Union."

CHAPTER III

Levies

Article 7. A percentage levy shall be effected on all transactions of the Common Customs Offices, which amount is intended to cover the expenses of these Offices.

The receipts and expenditures of the Common Offices Service shall be determined by the Conference of Heads of State on proposals of the Management Committee of the Customs Union.

TITLE IV

FISCAL CO-OPERATION

Article 8. The Central African Republic, the Republic of the Congo, the Gabon Republic and the Republic of Chad shall establish among themselves a procedure for the harmonization and co-ordination of their tax legislation and regulations, pursuant to Article 5 of protocol No. 1 of 17 January 1959.

Article 9. The signatory States undertake not to modify unilaterally the present basis for computation of the following taxes:
The Governments shall submit to the Conference proposals for the modification of their internal legislation.

**Article 10.** The proposals for modification referred to in Article 9 shall be presented to the Management Committee of the Customs Union which shall consider them from the two following points of view:

(a) The possibility for one or more States to adopt the texts proposed without their being extended to all the member States;

If, from this point of view, the Committee expresses a favourable opinion, the text may be adopted by States wishing to do so. In the contrary case, the States undertake not to give effect separately to the text under consideration.

(b) The advisability of simultaneous adoption by the four States of the text under consideration.

If the Management Committee unanimously expresses an opinion in favour of the adoption of the text, it shall be submitted to the Assemblies of the States for ratification.

If it expresses an unfavourable opinion, the text cannot be adopted by any of the signatory States.

**Article 11.** With respect to the following matters:

- rate of the internal turnover tax,
- rate of the tax on industrial and commercial profits,
- rate of the tax on income from securities,
- basis for computation of tax on wages,
- basis for computation of tax on income.

The States undertake before any modification to consult with the Permanent Secretariat which shall bring the matter to the attention of the Management Committee of the Customs Union.

If three quarters of the members of the Committee express an unfavourable opinion, the States shall undertake to withdraw their proposal except for appeal to the Conference of Heads of States.
Article 12. The States undertake to comply with the Convention on Double Taxation adopted by the Inter-Territorial Conference held on 14 and 15 October 1957.

Article 13. Single charges established in pursuance of previous legislation are hereby confirmed.

The contracting States hereby resolve, moreover, to apply the single charge system to certain locally manufactured products sold in the territories of several contracting States.

The Management Committee of the Equatorial Customs Union shall approve the undertakings subject to this system, define the conditions and limits for their duty-free supplies and set the rate of the single charge in accordance with the procedure laid down in Article 3 above.

Proceeds from the single charges shall be paid into the budget of the States where the products have been consumed.

Article 14. The Management Committee of the Customs Union shall be composed as follows:

- the Minister of Finance of each contracting State or in his absence a Minister designated by the Government;
- a second representative designated by each Government;
- the President of the Central Bank of the Equatorial African States and Cameroon, with consultative status;
- a representative of the Community may attend meetings, with consultative status;
- the French Republic may, by way of technical assistance, appoint a representative having consultative status.

The members of the Management Committee may be represented by a duly authorized person of their choice.

The office of Chairman shall be exercised for a term of one year by each of the representatives of the States in rotation, according to the alphabetical order of the States.

The Management Committee may invite any qualified person to its meetings on a consultative basis.

It shall meet upon convocation by its Chairman, either at his initiative or at the request of one of the signatory States or of the Community.
The Permanent Secretariat of the Conference of the Heads of State shall carry out the duties of a Secretariat for the Management Committee.

The Management Committee can meet validly only if all the States are represented by at least one member entitled to vote and speak.

Except where otherwise specified in this Convention, the decisions of the Management Committee shall be taken by a simple majority of the members present. In case of an divided vote, the President shall cast the deciding vote.

Article 15. The competence of the Management Committee with respect to customs laws and regulations shall extend to the following matters, to the exclusion of all others, subject to the acknowledged powers of the Conference of Heads of State:

- customs and statistical nomenclature,
- import tariff and individual tariff systems,
- import charges applicable in the four Republics (import turnover charge, single charge, handling and distribution charges, ancillary duties and charges levied by the customs services) with the exclusion of such consumption taxes or special charges as might be levied by the customs for reasons of convenience,
- customs code.

Furthermore, in the common offices, the Management Committee shall exercise the regulatory and supervisory powers with respect to Customs, Handling and Distribution. In this capacity, it shall exercise in particular the following functions:

- it shall decide in questions of customs and similar infractions whenever the dispute involves sums of more than 500,000 CFA francs in defrauded or jeopardized duties, or sums of 2 million CFA francs in value if there are no jeopardized duties;
- it shall authorize all agreements, settlements and arrangements other than Customs, consents, waivers, as well as all obligations whenever the dispute involves a sum in excess of 500,000 CFA francs;
- it shall propose for decision by the Conference of Heads of State the adjournment of discussion and the absolving from liability whenever the sum involved is in excess of 100,000 CFA francs;
- it shall approve the records of the condemnation of material whenever the sum involved is in excess of 1,000,000 CFA francs;
- it may exercise all other powers which may be delegated to it by the signatory States.

The responsibilities previously conferred on the General High Commissioner by Deliberation Nos. 88/55, 69/56, 39/57 of the Grand Council of FEA shall pass to the Government of each State.
Article 16. The Common Customs Offices, the list of which is given as an annex to this Convention, shall be administered by a Chief of Service who shall, under the authority of the Permanent Secretary of the Conference of Heads of State:

- assure their management and administration,
- conduct proceedings in customs disputes and settle them whenever the dispute involves sums of less than 500,000 CFA francs in defrauded or jeopardized duties, or sums of not more than 2,000,000 CFA francs in value if there are no defrauded or jeopardized duties. Furthermore, he shall deal with infractions committed by travellers which have not given rise to judicial proceedings, as well as infractions punishable by token fines,
- co-ordinate and supervise application of the customs legislation and regulations in the Common Offices.

In the Central African Republic, the Republic of the Congo and the Republic of Chad, a Customs official shall be placed at the disposal of the Minister of Finance in the capacity of technical adviser. He shall be appointed by the said Minister on a proposal by the Chief of Service of the Common Customs Offices.

Article 17. The Chief of Service of the Common Customs Offices, in co-operation and agreement with the Director of Customs of Gabon shall classify on the basis of assimilation those goods which are not included in the tariff.

Article 18. Subject to the powers which have been passed to the Community authorities under the Constitution of 4 October 1958, any dispute arising between the signatory States concerning the application of this Convention shall be settled by an arbiter designated by the Conference of Heads of State or by the Court of Arbitration.

Article 19. This Convention shall come into force definitively upon ratification by the contracting States according to the legislative procedure of each of them.

It may be modified or denounced by one of the signatory States in the forms followed for its adoption.

The denunciation shall take effect only at the end of the calendar year falling at least six months after its notification to the Customs Union.

Original text adopted on 23 June 1959
Text amended on: 7 December 1959
10 November 1960
8 April 1961 (including Act 8/61-216)
1. **In the Republic of the Congo:**
   
   BRAZZAVILLE - POINTE-NOIRE - MOSSAKA - MINDOULI - DOLISIE.

2. **In the Central African Republic:**
   
   BANGUI - BERBERATI - BOUAR - BANGASSOU - BABOUA - ZINGA - MOBAYE - BIRAO - BAMBOUTI - OUANGO.

3. **In the Republic of Chad:**
   
ANNEX 2

COMMON POSTS OF THE CONSIGNMENT CONTROL SERVICE OF THE "UNION"

1. Gabon Republic:
   LIPREVILLE - PORT-GENTIL - BITAM

2. Republic of the Congo:
   POINTE-NOIRE

3. Central African Republic:
   BANGUI - BERBERATI - BOUAR

4. Republic of Chad:
   FORT-LAMY
B

REGULATION OF ECONOMIC AND CUSTOMS RELATIONS BETWEEN THE MEMBER STATES OF
THE EQUATORIAL CUSTOMS UNION AND THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF CAMEROON

23 June 1961
1. **PROTOCOL OF AGREEMENT**

The Heads of State of the Republic of Cameroon, the Central African Republic, the Republic of the Congo, the Gabon Republic and the Republic of Chad,

- desirous of achieving an association between Cameroon and the Equatorial Customs Union with a view to the progressive creation of a common market between the five States and, by stages, the establishment of a customs union,

have decided

1. to adopt a common external customs tariff and jointly to present it to the appropriate international organizations;

2. to unify the régimes applicable to investments and to harmonize their investment codes;

3. to hold periodic consultations with a view to harmonizing their fiscal régimes;

4. to establish regulations governing their foreign trade régimes through a special convention.

The four objectives established by this protocol shall be achieved according to a schedule to be determined by the five Heads of State.

Bangui, 23 June 1961

The President of the Republic of the Congo

For the President of the Gabon Republic (absent) and, by delegation, the Minister of National Economy

F. YOULOU

G. ANGUILE

The Head of State

President of the Council of Ministers of Chad

F. TONGBALAYE
2. **CONVENTION**

regulating economic and customs relations between the member States of the Equatorial Customs Union and the Republic of Cameroon

The Governments of the CENTRAL AFRICAN Republic
the Republic of the CONGO
the GABON Republic
the Republic of CHAD,

being members of the Equatorial Customs Union

and

The Government of the Republic of Cameroon

Have agreed as follows:

**TITLE I**

**REGIME FOR EXCHANGES OF PRODUCTS AND MERCHANDISE OF LOCAL ORIGIN**

**Article 1.** The products and merchandise originating in the member States of the Equatorial Customs Union and in the Republic of Cameroon and included in List 1 annexed to this Convention shall, when transferred into the other State or group of States for consumption therein, be exempt from import and export duties, excluding all other duties or charges, in particular turnover taxes, which shall remain chargeable.

**Article 2.** The products and merchandise manufactured in the member States of the ECU or in the Republic of Cameroon and included in List 2 annexed to this Convention shall, when transferred into the other State or group of States for consumption therein, be subject to the special system of the "single charge" according to the conditions set forth in the following articles.

**Article 3.** The "single charge" shall be exclusive of all duties and charges levied upon importation, on raw materials and essential products used in industry for the preparation of manufactured products in the form in which they enter into trade, of all internal charges on raw materials and products of local origin used in industry, of all other duties and charges levied on the manufactured product whether upon consumption or on export and import between the States parties to this Convention.

**Article 4.** The charge shall be settled and levied for the account of the State of consumption by the customs offices of the ECU in the case of products and merchandise originating in Cameroon, and by the customs offices of Cameroon in the case of products and merchandise originating in the ECU.
Article 5. The single charge may be levied at different rates for a single product, depending on the customs territory in which it was produced.

The rates of the single charge shall be established by concurrence of the parties by an ad hoc Commission composed of two representatives of each State, one of them being a Minister, duly accredited by their Governments, on the basis of:

(a) the fiscal privileges and exemptions granted to producing undertakings in each customs territory;

(b) the exemptions provided for in Article 3 above;

(c) disparities in production conditions.

The rates of the single charge may be reviewed annually.

The differences existing between the rates of the single charge on a given product shall not be increased and shall be progressively reduced towards a common level, subject to any recourse to the safeguard provisions set forth in Article 7.

Article 6. Lists 1 and 2 annexed to this Convention may be revised annually.

Article 7. In the event that the application of the provisions of the Convention jeopardizes an activity conducted in the territory of one or more States, the State or States concerned shall request the convening of a joint committee composed of one representative of each State, which shall be empowered to take all measures deemed necessary for safeguarding the said activity.

Article 8. Exchanges in the frontier zone shall be free of duties and charges of all kinds.

Exchanges in the frontier zone shall be considered to be transfers of animals or local products by heads of families or housewives resident in the frontier zone within a maximum of 20 kms. on either side of the frontier.

In order to qualify for duty-free admission, such transfers shall be of a value of not more than 10,000 francs in the case of products, and shall consist of not more than four head in the case of live animals, with the exception of animals of the bovine, equine and cameloid species.

The facilities granted under this article shall not apply to cotton, coffee, cocoa and groundnuts.
TITLE II

REGIME FOR EXPORTERS

Article 9. Imported merchandise acquired on the local consumer market and re-consigned from Cameroon to one of the States of the Equatorial Customs Union or vice versa, shall be exempt from export duties and from turnover tax upon exportation from the country forwarding them and shall be subject merely to the usual conditions of the import tariff in the importing State.

The above provisions shall not, however, apply to the following transactions:

(a) Non-commercial transactions of a value not exceeding 20,000 francs and carried out in a bona fide manner;

(b) re-exports of private motor vehicles belonging either to persons in the process of changing residence or to persons who during a single stay are transferred from Cameroon to the Customs Union and vice versa.

The transactions referred to in sub-paragraphs (a) and (b) above shall be liable only to payment of any difference existing at the time of importation between the tariffs applicable in the territory of destination on the one hand and the territory of departure on the other hand.

The Customs Administration of the territory of importation shall in each individual case decide as to the granting of this measure to the vehicles referred to in (b) above, after considering the application submitted by the person concerned and transmitted by the Customs Administration of the territory of exportation.

The duties and charges arising pursuant to this Article shall be computed on the basis of the value of the goods franco at point of entry into the ECU or Cameroon.

Article 10. It shall remain prohibited to re-export imported merchandise offered for consumption in one of the contracting States from the Equatorial Customs Union to Cameroon and vice versa, in the case of articles purchased with foreign exchange except where special authorization is granted by the importing State.

Exchanges of products under quota are subject to an authorization granted by the economic services of the States concerned.

The above provisions of this Article shall not, however, apply to non-commercial transactions of a value of not more than 20,000 francs and carried out on a bona fide basis.
TITLE III
CUSTOMS CONTROL OF EXCHANGES

Article 11. Joint customs offices functioning on behalf of the customs administrations of the Equatorial Customs Union and of Cameroon shall be established or maintained in the following places:

- in Cameroon: Douala, Yaoundé, Garoua, Mora
- in the ECU: Fort-Lamy, Fianga, Léré, Binder, Berbérati, Bouar, Baboua.

The office Chiefs shall take a decision in regard to transactions on the basis of the declarations made and the documents submitted to them. They shall report thereon to the appropriate authorities.

The Directors of Customs shall act jointly to prevent fraud and to discover infractions of the regulations. In this connexion, the customs services shall co-operate fully with each other.

To this end the Joint office Chiefs shall furnish the information requested by the customs authorities of Cameroon and of the Equatorial Customs Union, and the Directors of Customs or their delegated representatives or any person designated by the governments concerned may proceed to examine any registers, books or documents relating to the movement of goods.

Any offences and infractions under the customs legislation in force in Cameroon or in the Equatorial Customs Union shall, when substantiated by the Joint Offices, be dealt with pursuant to the legislation of the State of destination in cases of imports or of the consigning State in the case of exports, and shall be brought before the courts of that State.

Article 12. The customs services of the member States of the Equatorial Customs Union and of Cameroon shall grant all facilities consistent with the regulations in the event of application of the régime for transfer by road or rail, trans-shipment, transfer from office to office, fictitious entrepôt storage, and withdrawal of goods placed under this régime or under the régime of temporary admission.

Article 13. The only overland routes recognized by this Agreement for the entry and exit of merchandise, products or animals between the member States of the Equatorial Customs Union and Cameroon (apart from frontier traffic) shall be:

- FORT-FOUREAU (Housseri) - FORT-LAMY,
- YAGOUA-BONGOR
- MAROUA-FIANGA
- GAROUA-PALA via Léré
- BETARE-OYA-BABOUA-BOUAR
- BATOURI-GAMBOULA-BERBERATI
- MOLOUNDOU-CUSSO (river route)
- AMBAM-BITAM
Customs offices, check points and mobile control units may be placed on these routes as well as on unauthorized routes.

Any frontier traffic attempted by a route other than that officially recognized shall be dealt with in accordance with the applicable provisions of the Customs Code.

Article 14. A Protocol annexed to this Convention regulates the individual questions of customs techniques and consignment control of exported products.

Article 15. The Director of the Common Customs Offices of the Equatorial Customs Union, the Director of Customs of Gabon and the Director of Customs of Cameroon shall be responsible for application of this Convention.

Bangui, 25 June 1961

THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF CAMEROON
A. AHIDJO

THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO
F. YOULOU

THE PRESIDENT OF THE CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC
D. DACKO

THE MINISTER OF NATIONAL ECONOMY
G. ANCUITE

THE HEAD OF STATE
PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS OF CHAD
F. TOMBALBAYE
LIST 1

1. Butter and dairy products
2. Wax and honey
3. Cottonseed
4. Groundnut oil
5. Fish, dried, salted or smoked
6. Natron
7. Oilcake
8. Shell eggs
9. Leather
10. Hides and skins, raw
11. Local handicraft products
12. Lime
13. Palm-kernel oil
14. Millet and fresh vegetables
15. Local fresh fruit
16. Gravel
17. Manioc flour
18. Bricks

SPECIAL PROVISIONS

19. Animals of the bovine species, the following maximum quantities:
   - 2,200 head in the direction Cameroon-ECU
   - 1,500 head in the direction ECU-Cameroon
20. Meat, a maximum quantity of 1,500 tons in each direction
21. Kola nuts, a maximum quantity of 4 tons in the direction of
    Cameroon-ECU
22. Plywood, a maximum quantity of 1,200 cubic metres in the
    direction ECU-Cameroon
23. Roasted coffee, a maximum quantity of 5 tons in each direction
LIST 2

A

1. Sugar
2. Beer, aerated waters, syrup, fruit juice
3. Cigarettes, manufactured tobacco
4. Soap, perfumery articles
5. Yarn, fabrics and blankets of cotton
6. Made-up articles
7. Tennis footwear and plastic footwear
8. Compressed gas
9. Wooden furniture
10. Articles of aluminium, laminated products, angles, shapes, and sections, sheets, etc.
11. Bicycles
12. Milk products and biscuit products
13. Metal scaffolding and furniture
14. Articles of plastic

B

1. Groundnut oil, cottonseed oil, palm oil, edible oils
2. Wooden houses
3. Nails, tacks, etc., ironmongery
4. Matches
5. Covers, packing material, sacks and bags, etc. of plastic, of vegetable material or of wood
6. Boilermaker's wares
7. Spare parts
8. Tinned goods
9. Sawn timber
10. Wire netting, bared wire
11. Chocolate
ANNEXED TO THE CONVENTION REGULATING ECONOMIC AND CUSTOMS
RELATIONS BETWEEN THE MEMBER STATES OF THE EQUATORIAL
CUSTOMS UNION AND THE REPUBLIC OF CAMEROON

I. MOTOR VEHICLE TRAFFIC ECU-CAMEROON

Motor vehicles belonging to person or companies established either in
Cameroon or in the ECU and registered in one of the States concerned, shall be
allowed to travel on the roads of the other State or group of States under
cover of documents requiring no guarantee deposit and issued subject to the
following conditions:

(a) Carnets de passages requiring no guarantee deposit and valid for
one year may be issued by the customs offices authorized to do so in the State
of registration to proprietors of motor vehicles required to travel frequently
between the two customs territories. The duration of each stay outside the
State of registration may not, however, be more than two months except in
case of force majeure which shall be duly substantiated.

(b) The importation of other vehicles shall be subject to completion and
signature, at the customs office of entry, of a laissez-passer comprising an
undertaking to re-export such vehicles within one month except in case of
force majeure which shall be duly substantiated.

Any abuse of the facilities granted by this article, and in particular the
use of vehicles for internal transport in a State where they are not registered,
shall result in the withdrawal of the privileged régime, without prejudice to
the sanctions laid down by the Customs Code in force.

The régime described above shall not apply to motor vehicles belonging
to persons who possess neither a domicile nor an establishment either in
Cameroon or in the member States of the ECU and who must accordingly meet the
requirements laid down by the applicable legislation.

The fuel contained in the supply tanks, together with the fuel necessary in
order to reach the first large centre in the ECU or in Cameroon, shall be
admitted duty-free for all motor vehicles. Such quantities may not, however,
be in excess of 300 litres of petrol and 15 litres of oil.

II. TRANSIT

The ordinary transit régime shall, in principle, apply to goods passing in
transit through the territory of Cameroon when consigned to or coming from the
member States of the ECU.

In order to speed up and simplify such transit, the customs services of
Cameroon and the ECU agree to apply to such operations the customs régime for
transfer from a first to a second customs office, subject to the following
conditions:
A. APPROVAL

Persons desirous of resorting to such facilities shall apply for an approval from the customs service of their State. Mention shall be made in the application of the list of carriers whose services the applicant proposes to use.

Any authorization granted shall be limited to road haulage by the carriers indicated in the application and accordingly considered as being approved. Any carrier found to have committed an irregularity shall no longer be considered as approved.

B. DECLARATIONS

Declarations need not be drawn up in customs terminology but must include the data given in the manifest or bill of lading, i.e.: number, type, make, serial number and weight of packages, nature of goods, country of origin, together with an indication of the person for whom the goods are destined and the value, which, in the absence of supporting documents, must be as close as possible to reality.

FORMALITIES APPLICABLE TO ORDINARY TRANSIT AND TO TRANSFER FROM A FIRST TO A SECOND OFFICE

A. EXIT FORMALITIES

1. Declarations. Operations shall be conducted under cover of a special transit certificate; the relevant printed forms shall be issued by the Chambers of Commerce, the forwarding agents' associations or shall be furnished by the applicant themselves. A model form has been sent to the association of forwarding agents at Douala and to the Chambers of Commerce concerned in the ECU member States.

2. The maximum time-limit for delivering merchandise to the office of destination shall be as follows:

- Bitam ................. 2 months
- Berbérali and Baboua ... 3 months
- Bangui and Bonar ........ 4 months
- Other places .......... 5 months

3. The verification made by the customs services shall in principle be summary; in certain cases, however, there may be either an inspection in the usual conditions or a complete verification.
4. The customs service shall agree to accept certifications of loss or damage established by the insurers upon departure from Douala on the premises of the forwarding agents. On the basis of those documents, it shall record on the transit certificate any duly substantiated loss or breakage. The customs service concerned shall issue instructions for the application of these provisions.

5. Save in exceptional cases, no customs seal shall be required on packages transported under the régime of transfer from a first to a second office.

B. FORMALITIES DURING TRANSIT

1. Vehicles. Vehicles such as special-purpose or caterpillar vehicles, as well as their parts, when transported in several packages for the convenience of transport by sea or by rail, may only be assembled or dis-assembled at Yaoundé in the presence of customs officials of the above-mentioned city; the said officials shall make the relevant notation on the certificate issued by the Douala office.

2. Any vehicle engaged in transport between the two States must be provided with a travel document in conformity with the attached model, drawn up in three copies, two of which shall be deposited at the frontier office, which shall, after annotating it, if need be, forward one copy to the office of destination.

Carriers possessing travel documents drawn up according to their own model may nevertheless use them on condition that all the necessary data are shown therein. Those concerned are, however, urged to adopt the standard form once existing stocks have been exhausted.

3. In the event of any accident requiring the goods to be transferred to another vehicle or affecting the condition of the consignment, a certification must be obtained from the administrative authority closest to the place of the accident; this certification shall be entered on the travel document.

C. ENTRY FORMALITIES

The certificate issued by the departure offices must be handed over to the office of destination upon arrival. Where the goods covered by a single certificate are carried in several vehicles, the driver of the first vehicle shall present the certificate to the frontier customs office and thereafter hand it to the office of destination.

A receipt for this document may be issued, on request, by the customs service at the place of destination.

Similarly, where the forwarding agent wishes to present the transit certificate or bill of lading to banking establishments, he shall at the time of departure prepare an additional copy which will thus be available on arrival.
D. SPECIAL CASE

Luggage. Inspection of luggage will take place, in principle, at the Douala customs office where any duties chargeable will be paid. If it is not possible to carry out this formality, in the absence of keys or for any other reason, the luggage will be forwarded under cover of a certificate which shall not require any guarantee payment.

The same rules shall be observed in cases where munitions, cinematographic apparatus or any other prohibited imports for forwarding to the ECU via Cameroon are contained in personal luggage. A guarantee payment may be required for the transit of munitions.

III. TRAFFIC BETWEEN CAMEROON AND CHAD

The customs offices of Fort-Foureau (Cameroon) and the mobile units belonging to it shall forward to Chad by the routes recognized under the Convention all merchandise intended for that State, so that the relevant duties may be charged. They shall ensure the repression of any fraudulent traffic, any case of which shall be reported to the Chief of Customs at Fort-Lamy.

IV. TRANSIT THROUGH CAMEROON OF PRODUCTS FOR EXPORT VIA DOUALA OR KRIBI AND INSPECTED BY THE CONSIGNMENT CONTROL SERVICE OF THE ECU

It has been decided that in the case of cocoa exported from Gabon via Kribi and Douala there will be no further consignment control in Cameroon for consignments exported within a period of not more than 120 days from the date of issue of the control certificate in the ECU. The Cameroon customs service will ensure that exportation has indeed taken place within that period.

In the case of exportation after the 120-day period, the Consignment Control Service of Cameroon shall automatically make a spot-check of approximately 2 per cent of the consignment to verify that it conforms with the quality indicated on the ECU control certificate. In case of any discrepancy, the Consignment Control Service of Cameroon shall inform the Consignment Control Service of the ECU. Even in any such case of discrepancy the goods shall be allowed to proceed.

The expenses incurred by the Consignment Control Service of Cameroon shall be reimbursed by the Consignment Control Service of the ECU on the basis of a quarterly statement.

V. EXEMPTION FROM CONSIGNMENT CONTROL FORMALITIES FOR PRODUCTS INTENDED FOR LOCAL CONSUMPTION

No action by the Consignment Control Services shall be required in respect of products of the ECU which are intended for local consumption in Cameroon, and vice versa.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF CAMEROON

A. AHIDJO

THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

F. YOULOU

THE PRESIDENT OF THE CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

D. DACKO

For the PRESIDENT OF THE GABON REPUBLIC (absent) and by delegation

THE MINISTER OF NATIONAL ECONOMY

G. ANGUILE

THE HEAD OF STATE

PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS OF CHAD

F. TOMBALBAYE
CARNET DE PASSAGES EN DOUANE

for Motor Vehicles and Trailers Travelling between the
REPUBLIC OF CAMEROON and the Member States of the
EQUATORIAL CUSTOMS UNION

No. ________________________

- VALID FOR ONE YEAR, i.e. until ____________________________, subject to compliance
by the holder during this period with the requirements of the Convention regulating economic and customs
relations between the States concerned.

Issued by the Customs Office at ____________________________

Holder ________________________________________________

Normal residence or
business address ________________________________________

For the vehicle registered in _____________________________ Under No. ________________________

This Carnet containing __________ vouchers may be used in (1)

(1) In CAMEROON (vehicles registered in one of the member States of the ECU)
or in one of the MEMBER STATES OF THE CUSTOMS UNION (vehicles registered in Cameroon).
DESCRIPTION OF VEHICLE

MOTOR VEHICLE driven by internal combustion: TRAILER (Delete words

TYPE (car, bus, lorry, van, tractor with or

without trailer)

REGISTERED IN ------------------------------- Under No. -------------------------------

MOTOR ...... (Make ______________________ (No. ____________________

CHASSIS ..... (Make ______________________ (No. ____________________

COACHWORK...(Type or shape

(Make ___________________________

(Colour _______________________

(Number of seats or carrying capacity

YEAR of construction

TYRES (a) mounted on vehicle (b) spare

MISCELLANEOUS

Net weight of vehicle ____________ ; Value (in letters and in figures)____________

Issued at ______________________, on _______ 196

On condition that the holder re-exports the vehicle within a period of two months and complies with the customs laws and regulations relating to the temporary admission of motor vehicles in the countries concerned.

On expiry the Carnet must be returned to the customs office which delivered it to the holder.

Holder's signature: Signature of Chief of Customs

Office and Customs stamp
COUNTERPOIL

IMPORTATION into ..........
of the vehicle described
in Carnet No. ..........
took place on ..........
at the Customs Office of 

Customs Officer's
signature

Customs stamp

IMPORTATION VOUCHER

Of Carnet de Passages No. ..........
Valid until ..........
Issued by Customs Office at 

Normal residence or business address

For a MOTOR VEHICLE - TRAILER (Delete
(car, bus, lorry, van, (words
TYPE tractor with or (not
without trailer) (appli-
cable

REGISTERED IN .......... Under No. ..........
ENGINE .......(Make (No. ..........
(CHASSIS .......(Make (No. ..........
(COACHWORK .......(Make (Type or shape ..........
(COLOUR .......... (Number of seats or
(carrying capacity

YEAR of construction ..........
TYRES: (a) on vehicle ..........
(b) spare ..........

MISCELLANEOUS ..........

NET WEIGHT ....VALUE (in letters
and figures)

EXPORTATION from ..........
took place on ..........
at the Customs Office of 

Customs Officer's
signature

Customs stamp

EXPORTATION VOUCHER

Of Carnet de Passages No. ..........
Valid until ..........
Issued by Customs Office at 

Normal residence or business address

For a MOTOR VEHICLE - TRAILER (Delete
(car, bus, lorry, van, (words
TYPE tractor with or (not
without trailer) (appli-
cable

REGISTERED IN .......... Under No. ..........
ENGINE .......(Make (No. ..........
(CHASSIS .......(Make (No. ..........
(COACHWORK .......(Make (Type or shape ..........
(COLOUR .......... (Number of seats or
(carrying capacity

YEAR of construction ..........
TYRES: (a) on vehicle ..........
(b) spare ..........

MISCELLANEOUS ..........

NET WEIGHT ....VALUE (in letters
and figures)

IMPORTATION ..........
took place on ..........
at the Customs Office of 

Customs Officer's
signature

Customs stamp:

To be returned to the Customs Office at

where the Carnet has been registered 

Customs stamp:
The office of importation should fill
in the last two lines of the exporta
tion voucher.
LAISSEZ-PASSER

For motor vehicles and trailers travelling between the Republic of Cameroon and the member States of the Equatorial Customs Union.

Price: 300 francs

Valid for one month and for a single journey

Issued to: Profession
residing at:

for the vehicle described below belonging to the above-named person
or to Profession
residing at:

TYPE OF vehicle
REGISTRATION: Country.........Number........

ENGINE
(Make: ..................
(No: .................

CHASSIS
(Make: ..................
(No: .................

COACHWORK
(Type or shape: ..........
(Colour: .................
(Number of seats or carrying capacity: .............

TYRES
(a) Mounted on vehicle
(b) Spare

MISCELLANEOUS

WEIGHT.............VALUE: (in letters or figures)

The holder of this Laissez-Passer undertakes, subject to the applicable legal sanctions, to re-export before the objects described above, to comply with the customs conditions and requirements regarding temporary importation and to present this Laissez-Passer again at a customs office upon exportation.

Done at:.................on:.................

READ and APPROVED:

Holder:.................Signature of Chief of Customs Office and
Customs stamp

DOCUMENTS PRESENTED BY HOLDER OF LAISSEZ-PASSER

Passport No:............... ( Issued on:.................at:.................
Identity Document:........... ( by: .................
Driving licence No:............... of:.................
VOUCHER NO. 2/EXPORTATION

to be handed to the customs office
of departure

LAISSEZ-PASSER

For motor-vehicles and trailers travelling between the Republic of Cameroon and the member States of the Equatorial Customs Union.

Valid for one month and for a single journey

Issued to: ........................................ Profession ........................................
residing at ...........................................
for the vehicle described below belonging to the above-named person
or to: ........................................ Profession ........................................
residing at ...........................................

<table>
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<tr>
<th>TYPE OF vehicle</th>
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<td>REGISTRATION: Country..................</td>
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<th>COACHWORK</th>
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<td>(Type or shape..........................</td>
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<td>(Number of seats or carrying capacity)</td>
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<table>
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<tr>
<th>TYRES: (a) Mounted on vehicle (b) spare</th>
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MISCELLANEOUS

| WEIGHT ................................|
| ........................................ |
| ........................................ |

| VALUE (in letters or figures) ..........|
| ........................................ |
| ........................................ |

The holder of this Laissez-Pass er undertakes, subject to the applicable legal sanctions, to re-export before.................................the objects described above, to comply with the customs conditions and requirements regarding temporary importation and to present this Laissez-Pass er again at a customs office upon exportation.

Done at ......................... on .........................

READ and APPROVED:

Holder

EXPORTATION from ......................... took place on .........................

via the customs office at .......................... Signature of Customs Officer
and Customs stamp
RULES OF PROCEDURE

DECISION NO. 1/62-CM-2

THE JOINT ECU-CAMEROON COMMISSION

HAVING REGARD to the Convention of 23 June 1961 regulating economic and customs relations between the member States of the Equatorial Customs Union and the Republic of Cameroon;

HAVING REGARD to Decree No. 62/DF/223 of 27 June 1962, establishing in the Federal Republic of Cameroon an external customs tariff common to that Republic and to the States of the Equatorial Customs Union, and laying down implementing provisions;

HAVING REGARD to Decision No. 16/62-UDE-209 of the Management Committee of the Equatorial Customs Union, establishing in the member States of the Equatorial Customs Union an external customs tariff common to those States and to the Federal Republic of Cameroon, and laying down implementing provisions;

HAS ADOPTED

the following decision:

Article 1. The rules of procedure of the Joint ECU-CAMEROON Commission annexed to this Decision are hereby adopted.

Article 2. This Decision shall be registered, published and communicated as appropriate.

DOUALA, 30 June 1962

THE PRESIDENT

ONANA - AWANA
RULES OF PROCEDURE

Article 1. The Joint Commission provided for in Article 5 of the Convention of 23 June 1961, regulating economic and customs relations between the member States of the Equatorial Customs Union and the Republic of the Cameroon, shall be composed as follows:

- One Minister of each State designated by the Government;
- A second representative designated by each Government.

Article 2. The members of the Commission may be assisted by experts with consultative status.

Article 3. The Commission shall meet twice yearly, in May and November.

Article 4. The Commission may, however, meet outside its two annual sessions at the request of one of its members; such request shall be addressed to the President of the Commission.

Article 5. The President shall, with the concurrence of the parties, fix the date and place of the meetings, which shall be held in each of the five Republics in rotation, according to the alphabetical order of the States; the Commission's meetings shall be private.

Article 6. The office of President shall be exercised for a term of one year by the Minister representing each of the five member States of the Commission in rotation, according to the alphabetical order of the member States.

Article 7. The President shall open and close the discussion and shall direct the work of the Commission.

Article 8. The usual duties of a secretariat shall be performed by an official designated by the Federal Government of Cameroon or by the Secretary-General of the Conference of the Heads of State of Equatorial Africa, according to the place of meeting.

Article 9. The Secretary of the Commission shall, under the authority of the President, draw up a summary record of meetings as well as the final communiqué briefly reporting the Commission's activities and the decisions taken.

Article 10. The Secretary of the Commission shall transmit the record of proceedings and the decisions and recommendations adopted to the Heads of State and the members of the Commission; the record of proceedings shall be confidential.
Article 11. Members of the Commission may present draft decisions and recommendations within the competence of the Commission; such drafts shall be submitted to the Secretary of the Commission for inclusion in the agenda of the next meeting.

Article 12. The files to be presented to the Commission shall comprise:

- a covering report;
- a draft decision.

They shall be prepared in twenty-five copies.

Article 13. The files, composed as indicated in the preceding Article, shall reach the secretariat of the Commission not later than one month before the scheduled date of the meeting; the Secretary shall distribute them to the members of the Commission.

Article 14. The Commission's decisions and recommendations shall be taken by concurrence of the parties and shall be signed by the Chairman.

Article 15. At the request of a member of the Commission, and in case of urgency, a postal consultation may be held.

Article 16. In the event of any such consultation a covering report and a draft decision shall be transmitted.

Article 17. The members of the Commission, being consulted, shall immediately acknowledge receipt of the draft decisions and shall inform the Secretary of the Commission of their opinion by telegram, not later than eight days following the date of acknowledgement of receipt; failure to reply within the time-limit shall be taken to imply concurrence.

Article 18. Draft decisions submitted for postal consultation can be adopted only if concurred with expressly or tacitly by all the members of the Commission.

Article 19. The Commission may, by concurrence of the parties, decide to publish its decisions according to the emergency procedure; the Secretary of the Commission shall inform the five Governments by telegram and they shall publish the said decisions as a matter of urgency.

Article 20. Expenditure arising from the meetings of the Commission shall be met out of the budget of the Federal Republic of Cameroon, or the budget of the Common Customs Offices of the ECU, according to the place where such meetings are held.

Article 21. The present rules of procedure may only be amended with the concurrence of the parties by the members of the Commission.