

**No. 10641**

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**FRANCE  
and  
CAMEROON**

**Convention concerning the role and status of the French military mission to Cameroon. Signed at Yaoundé on 13 November 1960**

*Authentic text: French.*

*Registered by France on 5 August 1970.*

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**FRANCE  
et  
CAMEROUN**

**Convention sur le rôle et le statut de la mission militaire française au Cameroun. Signée à Yaoundé le 13 novembre 1960**

*Texte authentique : français.*

*Enregistrée par la France le 5 août 1970.*

[TRANSLATION — TRADUCTION]

CONVENTION<sup>1</sup> CONCERNING THE ROLE AND STATUS OF  
THE FRENCH MILITARY MISSION TO CAMEROON

The President of the French Republic and  
The President of the Republic of Cameroon  
Have decided to conclude this Convention.

To that end they have appointed as their plenipotentiaries:

The President of the French Republic:

Mr. Maurice Couve de Murville, Minister for Foreign Affairs;

The President of the Republic of Cameroon:

Mr. Charles-René Okala, Minister for Foreign Affairs,

Who, having exchanged their full powers, found to be in good and due form, have agreed on the following provisions:

*Article 1*

A French Military Mission known as the « French Military Mission to Cameroon » shall be maintained by the French Republic under the Office of the High Representative.

The appointment of the Head of the Mission shall be subject to the prior approval of the Government of the Republic of Cameroon.

The personnel of the Mission shall be determined by agreement between the Government of the French Republic and the Government of the Republic of Cameroon.

*Article 2*

The Head of the Mission shall have the following duties:

- (1) To undertake and carry out, in liaison with the competent authorities of each country, all studies and measures relating to military assistance;
- (2) To recruit, in addition to the specially employed military personnel, experts, instructors or specialists to assist the Cameroonian army, including the *gendarmerie*.

<sup>1</sup> Came into force on 27 January 1961 by the exchange of the instruments of ratification, which took place at Paris, in accordance with article 19.

### Article 3

The personnel of the Military Mission shall be subject to the administrative and disciplinary regulations of the French army.

The Head of the Military Mission shall have, *vis-à-vis* the Mission's French personnel, judicial, disciplinary and administrative powers and shall vouch, *vis-à-vis* the Cameroonian authorities, for the discipline and actions of such personnel.

### Article 4

The Cameroonian High Command may, as necessary, request the Head of the Military Mission to take disciplinary action against the personnel under him.

Similarly, the French instructors and experts may, as necessary, request the Cameroonian Command to take disciplinary action against Cameroonian military personnel.

### Article 5

The Republic of Cameroon shall facilitate the establishment of the Military Mission; the Head of the Mission and his advisers shall have diplomatic status. The personnel of the Mission shall not require passports or visas, but they shall be furnished with identity or registration cards, copies of which shall be deposited with the Government of the Republic of Cameroon.

### Article 6

In the case of offences against the French or Cameroonian armed forces or military installations, property and equipment, the French authorities and the Cameroonian authorities shall take the same steps against persons subject to their respective jurisdictions as would have been taken if those offences had been committed against their own armed forces or their own military installations, property and equipment.

### Article 7

The French Government shall pay fair compensation in the case of damage occurring in connexion with the performance of their official duties by persons directly employed by it. Requests for compensation shall be transmitted to the French Government through the Government of the Republic of Cameroon.

The Government of the Republic of Cameroon shall pay fair compensation in the case of damage occurring in connexion with the performance

of their official duties by persons directly employed by it. Requests for compensation shall be transmitted to the Government of Cameroon through the French Government.

Subject to the provisions of the first paragraph of this article, the Cameroonian courts shall have jurisdiction in respect of actions brought against French military personnel.

In such cases, the French Military Mission shall, at the request of the Cameroonian military authorities, take all steps in its power to ensure compliance with the judgements and orders of the Cameroonian courts and to assist the Cameroonian authorities in the enforcement of such judgements and orders. The enforcement of such judgements and orders shall not extend to the person, weapons, ammunition, equipment, regulation articles or uniform of a French soldier.

#### *Article 8*

Supplies, equipment and material imported collectively into Cameroon by the Head of the Military Mission to supply and maintain the personnel assigned to the Mission shall be exempt from customs duties and taxes and other internal levies.

The personnel of the Military Mission shall be authorized to import free of customs duties, under the temporary admission system, their personal effects, furniture and one private vehicle for their personal use.

#### *Article 9*

French military personnel shall be entitled to the outward tokens of respect befitting their rank; likewise, they shall pay the outward tokens of respect owing to higher ranking Cameroonian military personnel.

#### *Article 10*

Honours shall be rendered on a basis of identical reciprocity to the Heads of State, the national emblems, and the members of the Governments and Assemblies and military, administrative and judiciary authorities of the two States. The orders of precedence established in a joint protocol by the Ambassador of the French Republic and the Government of Cameroon shall be respected by the military authorities and armed forces of each State.

#### *Article 11*

French military personnel shall come under French military jurisdiction in respect of all offences committed against the security of the French State

or provided for in the French Code of Military Justice and of any offences under the general law committed while on duty or within French military establishments.

#### Article 12

In all other cases, the Cameroonian courts shall have jurisdiction. The Government of the Republic of Cameroon shall give sympathetic consideration to any request from the French authorities for a transfer of jurisdiction to them.

Where jurisdiction is not transferred, the accused shall, in the event of his having been remanded in custody by the judicial authorities, be detained in premises belonging to the French Military Mission. The Mission shall make him available to the Cameroonian judicial authorities for all the proceedings relating to the investigation and for trial. If he is convicted, the penalty shall be carried out by the French authorities.

The Cameroonian authorities shall not arrest French military personnel except in cases of *flagrante delicto*, as provided for in Cameroonian legislation. They shall immediately notify the French Military Mission and shall hand over the person concerned in the shortest possible time.

#### Article 13

Inquiries within French military establishments shall be conducted by the French authorities. A person or persons committing an offence within such establishments and accomplices thereto, if they are not French military personnel, shall be handed over to the Cameroonian authorities in the shortest possible time.

#### Article 14

French military personnel may, for their exclusive use, avail themselves of logistical support services, including an army post office and a military pay office, and maintain shops, messes, clubs, recreational centres and social services. Such establishments shall be exempt from all taxes, licence fees and sales taxes.

The French authorities shall take the necessary steps to ensure that such goods are not resold to persons who are not entitled to obtain supplies from such establishments and to prevent any abuse.

The arrangements for the operation of the post office shall be laid down in an agreement.

*Article 15*

French military personnel in Cameroon shall be taxed by the French Government and shall not be liable to direct taxes levied by the Republic of Cameroon and its local authorities.

The French Government shall pay to the Government of the Republic of Cameroon a counterpart sum which shall be established by mutual agreement commensurately with the size of the French military establishment and pursuant to Cameroonian tax legislation.

*Article 16*

French military personnel not forming part of the Military Mission shall, for the purposes of applying articles 3, 5 (second paragraph) and 6 to 15 inclusive of this Convention, be regarded as members of the Mission.

*Article 17*

For the purposes of this Convention, the term "French military personnel" means:

- military personnel proper
- civilian personnel in their employ who accompany them and are not citizens or normally residents of Cameroon
- dependants who accompany them.

*Article 18*

Personnel of the Cameroonian Armed Forces on duty or on assignment in France shall, in the territory of the French Republic, benefit from the provisions of articles 5 (second paragraph) and 8 (second paragraph) of this Convention. The provisions of articles 11 to 15 shall apply to them *mutatis mutandis*.

*Article 19*

This Convention shall enter into force on the date of the exchange of the instruments of ratification, which shall take place at Paris as soon as possible.

DONE à Yaoundé, on 13 November 1960, in two original copies.

[CHARLES-RENÉ OKALA]

[MAURICE COUVE DE MURVILLE]