

Small files: Africa general:
Small files: Africa general -
16

HS L 179:177



Dag Hammarskjöld's samml.

Africa General

22 April 1960

Green, Howard C. (Secy of State, Canada)

- 1 letter from D.H.
- 1 encl.

22 April 1960

I write to ask you whether you would be prepared to release one of your senior officials in the Canadian public service - Dr. George Davidson - for an important United Nations appointment in Nigeria. As you may know, I have been considering ways in which the United Nations may be able to assist some of the new states of Africa in dealing with the difficult problems which arise during and after the period of transition from colonial status to independent nationhood. During my recent tour of Africa I had the opportunity of discussing these matters with Alhaji Abubakar Balewa, the Prime Minister of the Nigerian Federation, and I was deeply impressed with what he told me of the needs of his country, and of his wish to take full advantage of any services which the United Nations might be able to provide for its members. He showed great interest in the possibility of extending the work of the United Nations technical assistance programme in Nigeria, and looked forward to the appointment of a high-level representative of the United Nations in his country. It has now been decided to establish an office of the United Nations in Lagos under the direction of a Resident Representative of the Technical Assistance Board. It is for this post that we are anxious to obtain the services of Dr. Davidson. His distinguished career with the Canadian Government, his personal qualities, and the success with which he has carried out a number of important international responsibilities, notably that of President of the Economic and Social Council, single him out as being ideally suited to undertake the task we have in mind. Indeed, I cannot think of anyone who would carry out this task as well as he.

Quite apart from Dr. Davidson's personal qualifications, there is one special consideration which gives additional weight to our wish to obtain the services of a top-flight Canadian official for the Nigerian post. When the matter was discussed with the Federal Prime Minister, he expressed great interest in the possibility of our appointing a suitable Canadian who was familiar, not only with the work of international organizations providing

H.E. Mr. Howard C. Green.
~~The Right Honourable John G. Diefenbaker~~
~~Prime Minister of Canada~~
Ottawa
Canada

*Secretary of State for External
affairs.*




technical assistance, but also with problems of administration in a federal system, working in the Commonwealth tradition of freedom and law. He hoped to be able to look to such a man for advice and guidance in matters which might go somewhat beyond the normal scope of the duties of a technical assistance resident representative, though they would not be inconsistent with them. There is no doubt that the right man in this post will be in a position to play a particularly helpful role at a crucial period in African development.

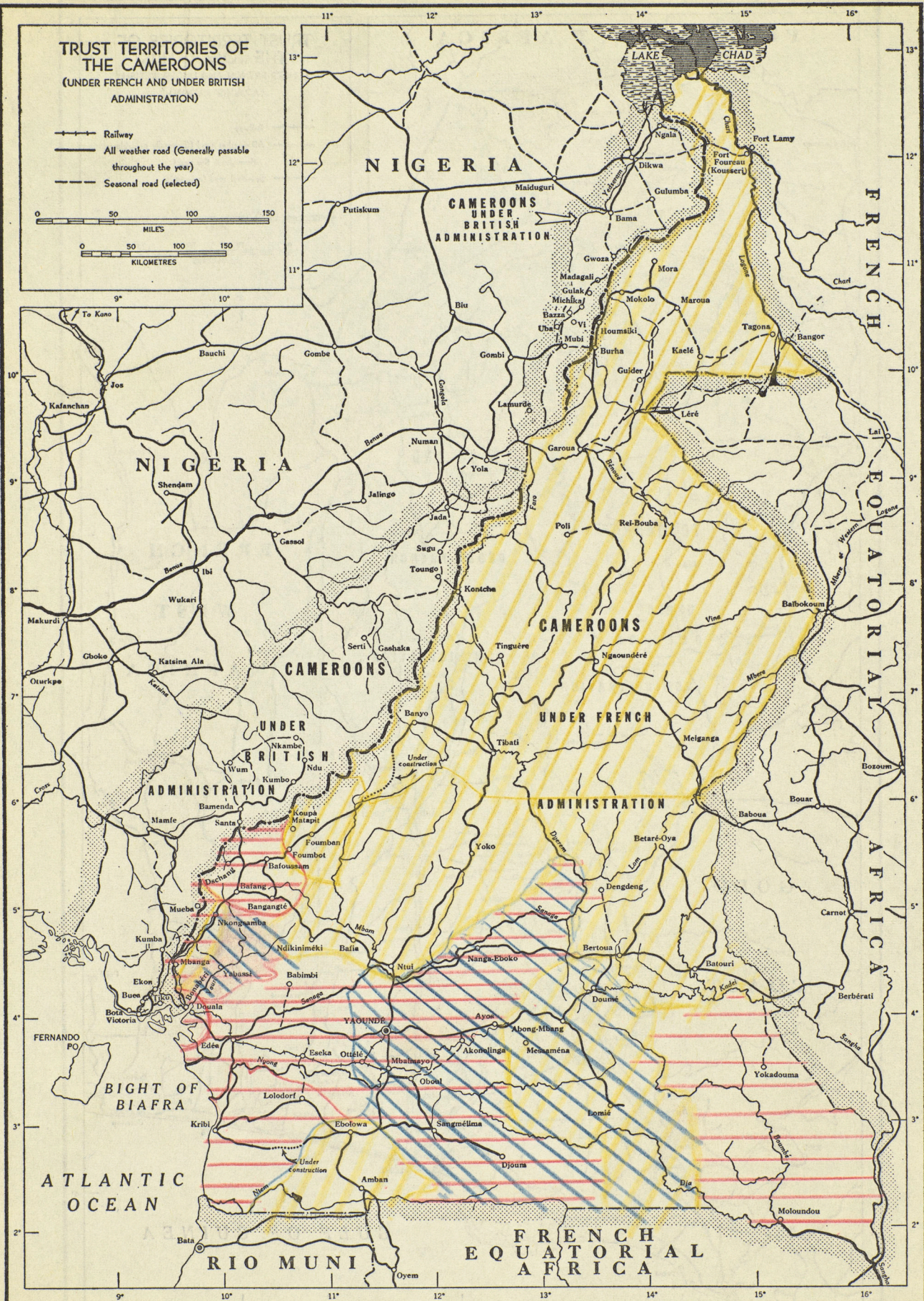
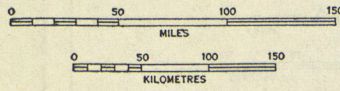
I know that in asking you to release Dr. Davidson for a period of service with the United Nations, I am asking the Government of Canada to make a great sacrifice. I would not do so unless I was convinced of the high importance of the opportunity now presented to us. Since the departure of General Burns we have had no top-level Canadian member of the United Nations secretariat. It would be in a much appreciated tradition for Canada to make available a man of the high calibre of Dr. Davidson for a post of great international importance.

May I ask you to give the question your earnest consideration.

Dag Hammarskjold
Secretary-General




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MAP NO. 429.1 UNITED NATIONS
SEPTEMBER 1955

59
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-  Union Camerounaise (Ahidjo)
-  U.P.C. (Mayi Matip)
-  Démocrates chrétiens (Mbida)

