By Abang Kimbong (Buea)

Introduction

Quite often some Ambazonians fight the wrong battles leaving out what they should be doing to set themselves free and independent like all independent nations did in order to be free. It is worthy to note that we don’t wish for Independence and get it. Freedom and independence are inalienable rights which we are born with although we are bound in chains which we daily fight to disentangle. Freedom is not given. It is taken by force by those whose inalienable rights have been seized. Therefore, no one will come from somewhere else and advise Ambazonia that LRC needs excessive and targeted force in order to kick them out. Nobody will come and tell you that Ambazonia needs to amass resources in order to sustain that force. Nobody will come and tell Ambazonians to rebel against endemic corruption, abuses, naivety, inertia and injustices noticeable in some of the key leaders and factions fighting for their rights.

Rather it is incumbent on us as a people desirous of freedom and an ideal sovereign homeland to have the right mentality, right strategic plan, act right and forcefully in a just and fair manner in order to attain our goal. We therefore, have a duty to unmask pretentions, hypocrisy, colonial manipulations and the work of bad leadership, infiltrators and enablers. We have to show commitment to good governance practices and democratic values even as we fight for Independence. We have a duty to win honour, respectability and trust now and not later on.

It is worth noting that wherever Ambazonians go, la Republique du Cameroun and her agents go with a counter story or destructive forces to slow or stop moves towards granting Independence to Ambazonia. We must therefore seal our deals in gold and engrave successful steps taken on stone if we must succeed and sustain our success. We equally have to Talk less and act more. We have to be discreet now on major issues and not later. We have to show the world that we are better than those we condemn now and not later.

American diplomats have given us a lot of free counsel, leads on or assistance but quite often, we have failed to understand them thus we have missed opportunities and at this point in time, we have issues that remain unattended to. We have failed to realize that the language of diplomacy like any other language also respects the rules of timing and audience. It changes as the dynamics on the ground change. It cannot be broken down for everyone. For instance, when we first met HE Tibor Nagy, it was a bold diplomat who told Biya to his face that he cannot win the war against separatists thus he should dialogue with them so as to keep his legacy. A legacy which the
American Ambassador to Cameroon had warned against its destruction if he keeps hanging on to power. Later on, a delegation of one of the leading factions in the Ambazonia War of Independence accosted the Under Secretary for Africa, Tibor Nagy in a conference in which he was a Guest Speaker on the Ambazonia issue, and HE Tibor Nagy retorted by saying that we are a small or a microstate and have characteristics of a failed state that will need foreign aid to survive. Lastly, we are reminded that he had earlier remarked that we still have a lot of “Camerouneses” hence it maybe difficult to separate Ambazonia from Cameroun. On the other hand, Ambassador Cohen says we're not angry enough to have a state of our own. Similarly, he keeps going back to suggesting a federation of two states equal in status as per 1961. He equally vacillates between the Swiss-led Talks and when he sees it failing, he Projects it is time for the US-led Talks to begin and when an avalanche of noise is heard, he proposes the AU and its members states to lead the talks and end the genocide in Ambazonia. I love them all. They work according to our work on the field. If we give them cause to doubt us, they express it and when we give them assurances by taking down high-level targets the language changes accordingly too. We are the architects of our destiny. If we want freedom, we will get it. If we want to be strangled, we will be taken to the slaughter house.

Thus, when all is said and done, instead of faulting the diplomats, what I expected us to do as a people is to re-examine ourselves especially our consciences and ask ourselves key questions. Who are we? What do we want? What do we have to get what we want? What roles are we playing and who can actually play which role, when and where? What credible partnerships do we need, when, why, and how do we contract them? In addition, we are called upon to re-examine our roles in the revolution and how bad or best we play them. Always have it at the back of your mind that AMERICA has the best intelligence services in the world hence they read you like a book. They know who are genuine freedom fighters and who are infiltrators and enablers? All the resources and capabilities we have are known to them. You can deceive yourselves and your followers, spread propaganda, lies and play dirty while being acclaimed by dimwits as the best leaders in world Revolutionary history but you can’t dribble AMERICA.

My dear friends, you can ask the question, “What makes the American diplomats think and say what they say?” The answers are there for us to see but most of us are in denial or swim in ignorance. First of all, what is it that makes us look more like the Cameroun (Camerouneses) we are running away from? What are the characteristic features of Cameroun in our Revolution and especially our leadership and followership style? If we don’t identify these characteristics and let these ills go away by elimination, then there is no earthly use to change one slough for another or pretend to be angry when an informed and an aware person comes out and tells us the truth.

To call a spade a spade, how are we different in our handling of corruption scandals in government circles after knowing that some countries are considered as shithole countries because of endemic corruption and bad governance practices? How are we different in the way we handle dissenting voices, bad governance and conflicts? So far, it is simply done a la cameroon. So it is sad to note that in an electronic age where corruption and crime can easily be tracked and punished, we still say "ou sont Les preuves?" And continue to function as if nothing has gone wrong because of our partisan nature and group dynamics or politics. We are blind surrogates to corrupt regimes simply because we belong to a specific faction and believe in it’s dominance and sustainability. We easily forget the state of Ambazonia, which we are fighting for and which is our collective inheritance, and focus on leaders who claim ownership of the state like Louis XIV who claimed that "l'etat c'est moi" (I am the state) without due process or general consensus. Furthermore, our government mirrors that of la Republique du Cameroun and most of our citizens act like those of LRC. For instance, our soldiers are killed or in some cases massacred due to friendly and brotherly fire and our so-called government goes quiet or fumbles a few words of condolences, excuses, institutes a blame game and the other games continue unabated. No genuine commissions of enquiries are set up to resolve conflicts and no action is established to stop the chaos as it keeps resurfacing all along. In a similar manner, splinter groups are created to support government actions everyday as if we want "majorite presidentiel". This begs for answers to this question: Are we seriously engaged to do the right things and free ourselves?

What do we have to get what we want? What roles are we playing and who can actually play which role, when and where? What credible partnerships do we need, when, why, and how do we contract them?

OPINION: IS DIPLOMATIC LANGUAGE MISUNDERSTOOD?
leadership. In a revolution we can't have the luxury of creating a government that has no mastery of Revolutionary tenets or adequately covers the ground and diaspora in terms of policies, annual budgets and strategic actions plans which are time bound and measurable, and let alone a vibrant opposition that wrestles to unseat the government.

How does the government function? All is in hiding like the oil wealth that was known only by the head of state of Cameroun and the director of SNH or known only by the strong men who do anything at anytime and the rest of us just have one option which is to clap paradoxically for their successes and failures as if both mean the same thing. Unfortunately too, these strong men have a license over life and death so they dish it out as they deem fit and we are at their Beck and call. If la Republique du Cameroun kills us without making a fuse, our so-called leaders in government actually illegally ban, impeach, pray for the deaths of our compatriots and threaten to kill others in broad daylight. What shocks is that they actually hire tugs to kill citizens with whom they disagree.

Despite all these ills, blackmail, propaganda and lies telling overshadow reality and give others a bad name when the devil gorgeously rides in glamorous armour of Fame in public space and majestically like a saint. Just like LRC that looks up to France, we look up to others abroad like the Swiss for our redemption especially after rumour holds that the fate of the nation has been mortgaged. It is pathetic to note that we don't believe in ourselves and act like people who want freedom at all levels. Rather, we act as people on a safari trip. There is a limited sense of emergency and urgency either from the leadership or followership. There are limited red alerts as the people bleed in the face of genocide.

We expect those on ground zero to act in haste to stop invaders and those in the diaspora to bleed the pockets dry of money to support ground zero. Freedom is free but difficult to get and maintain.

But what exactly is freedom? Freedom is primarily a product of the mind set before actualization on the ground in terms of believe, thinking, speech, voting and being voted into all offices, movement, attainment of prosperity and the pursuit of happiness. Are we really free? For me, I can proudly say, I am free. I don't know whether you are? If you were, the shit in the Ambazonia Revolution and war of Independence will come to an end asap. No Ambazonia should be the God so that we can submit and act as servants. These are just snippets of the monster we are dealing with and if we don't make a difference, we should not complain when outsiders make comments about us which some deem derogatory.

Wait a minute! Did I hear you say you hate Ambassador Cohen for his utterances that Ambazonia is not angry enough? And his other statement that a two state federation is good for now as a way to solve the territorial conflict between LRC and Ambazonia? Yes, you have a right to be angry but when put into context, you really have to be thankful because he has opened your eyes and windows for victory. He has told you to stand up and work more dedicatedly for what you hold so dear. This can only take effect if you rediscover yourselves and act right after reflecting deeply on these utterances. Yes, he is right to say we are not angry enough. Angry people don't take time to raise money for a Revolution just so that a few people can embezzle it and use it on their lifestyle projects while we still let them walk among us as Kings. Angry people who are also thirsty for Independence, after discovering that the money has been swindled, won't go to sleep. So what do they do? They quickly raise more money and reengage the battles for freedom with new people and a set of hard rules to govern their actions. Some of us have given up instead of redoubling efforts to raise more money and select better folks among 8 million people to use the money judiciously and bring home the victory. Is this all? We have come to a standstill because of enablers and infiltrators amongst us. If we were angry enough, none of these internal enemies could have been in ground zero or anywhere near us abroad and doing what they're doing to destroy the revolution and war efforts. The Americans did not play with their quest hence they got what they wanted and are today proudly world leaders. We have to learn from other case studies.

Furthermore, we are not angry enough when we allow 400 villages to be burned and compatriots like Sam SOYA, Mama Apih, Pa Francis and Babe Martha to be gruesomely murdered without us avenging in ways that sends a cold shiver down the spine of the enemy forces with a clear message never again to dare the people of Ambazonia. In fact, this would have served as a deterrent to Cameroonian militias and other state sponsored criminals and actors/actresses. Unfortunately, what do we have on ground, we allow enemy forces to attack us while we attack our fellow citizens serving as Self-defense forces, this shows we are not angry enough or better still, it shows we are fighting a war on many fronts some of which are fabricated by us for selfish ends. We are not angry enough when we allow novices, infiltrators and enablers to destroy the great pillars of the revolution and leaders of the revolution while we go to sleep. We are not angry enough when we allow terrorists forces to move within our territory with ease and commit one atrocious crime after another for 4 years almost unperturbed. The day we will be angry enough and arise like one man and attack the enemy, he will run without picking his bags. Until then blame yourselves and not the diplomats. Be grateful for their kind services. It is noteworthy that the US since 1961 has always stood by us and spoken out against injustices done to our state and people. The diplomats, CIA and FBI deserve our praises and not the enablers and infiltrators amongst us. If we were angry enough, none of these internal enemies could have been in ground zero or anywhere near us abroad and doing what they're doing to destroy the revolution and war efforts. The Americans did not play with their quest hence they got what they wanted and are today proudly world leaders. We have to learn from other case studies.

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The Southern Cameroons Congress of the People (SCCOP) is committed to the complete decolonization of the Southern Cameroons and to molding a new crop of pan-African leaders to complete the liberation and development of Africa. To this effect, we believe in the argument of force and the force of argument, and work by the principles of discipline, loyalty and sacrifice. THINK LIKE A SCCOPPER is the voice of the Southern Cameroons Congress of the People. We are dedicated to sourcing and publishing politically educating content to raise awareness and organize the grassroots population to be active and conscious agents of our own liberation. Join us at www.sccop.org/join and let us achieve together. Ubuntu.

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