

UPC paraded with banners and photographs of Um Nyobe, the late leader, who had been killed in ambush by the French and is now considered a martyr by the party. There is some hope that the UPC, many of whose members have profited by the general amnesty declared by the Ahidjo Government, will become transformed into an official opposition and participate in the new Legislative Assembly when it is elected in the spring of 1960.

A Medieval Pageant

On the following day, January 3, the delegations were again on the move and were flown north to Garoua, the birthplace and centre of the Fulani tribe, to which Prime Minister Ahidjo belongs. The chiefs of the surrounding regions had travelled from far and near to pay honour to their countryman, accompanied by their camp-followers, jesters and dancers in full regalia. There must have been over 3,000 mail-clad "medieval" warriors, wearing plumed helmets, carrying leopard-skin shields and riding slight, spirited Arab horses decked out in brilliant caparisons. The march past took place at a canter, with muskets crackling and silver trumpets blaring. Most of the delegates clung to the grandstand in some apprehension that, like the walls of Jericho, it might suddenly disintegrate under the assault of the waves of sound.

After the parade the delegates and chieftains were invited to a banquet, which appeared miraculously from nowhere. Soon whole sheep and mountains of fruit as miraculously disappeared. In the evening, Prime Minister Ahidjo held a reception where the principal African dignitaries, surrounded by their followers, mingled with the European guests. Troupes of Africans danced continuously on the torchlit terraces. The party lasted until the small hours, and it was not until 2.30 a.m. on January 4 that the planes returned to Yaoundé just in time for a few hours sleep before leaving once more for Paris.

Wherever the Canadian delegates went, they were received with the most heart-warming enthusiasm. Many inhabitants of the Cameroons owe a great part of their training and education to the schools maintained by the White Fathers and the Minister and Mme Comtois met many compatriots from the Province of Quebec who were devoting themselves to helping young Africans to a better way of life.

Despite the crowded programme, the delegation returned with the impression of a vivid, dynamic people, aware of the added responsibilities and difficulties independence must inevitably bring, and eager to help their country overcome them and make independence a reality. It is perhaps significant of the interest and attention that this newest African state is already commanding that during the ceremonies four major powers, the United Kingdom, the United States, the U.S.S.R. and the Federal Republic of Germany, announced their intention of establishing embassies in the Cameroons. Canada also will follow the progress of the new state with interest and sympathy.