

**STATEMENT BY THE HEAD OF STATE**

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**On the occasion of the Release  
of French Hostages**

Yaounde, 19 April 2013

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

**Permit me, first of all, to wish you a warm and cordial welcome to Unity Palace.**

**Of course, I extend my wishes first and foremost to the MOULIN-FOURNIER family which has just gone through very difficult detention conditions.**

**The Cameroonian people and I feel greatly relieved and very happy that you are free.**

**I hail the presence of Mr. Fabius, the French Minister of Foreign Affairs, Special Envoy of the President of the French Republic with whom we worked closely to secure the happy outcome which we are celebrating today.**

**I am pleased to recognize the Chief Executive Officer of GDF-Suez whose presence among us guarantees the sustainable continuity of its industrial activity in Cameroon. He has been with us throughout this crisis.**

**The happy ending to this incident is definitely the result of exemplary cooperation between the French, Nigerian and Cameroonian Governments. Their services showed remarkable efficiency and great discretion.**

**The main lesson I learn from this incident, as I speak to you, is that the security problems facing our continent will be resolved only through close international cooperation. Obviously, there is an urgent need to strengthen such cooperation.**

**For my part, I wish to reaffirm my determination to spare no effort to ensure that Cameroon remains a land of hospitality, tolerance, stability, peace and progress.**

**To conclude, I would like to congratulate you, members of the MOULIN-FOURNIER family.**

**You have shown great courage and composure.**

**You trusted us ... You believed in us ... right to the end...**

**You have been well and truly free for a couple of hours now.**

**I have been informed that tonight, you are leaving for France. I wish you a safe journey I hope your stay in France will be brief and that in no time you will be returning to Cameroon, our home, your home, to carry on your activities.**

**Thank you.**