



Twenty-first session
Agenda item 23

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE GRANTING OF
INDEPENDENCE TO COLONIAL COUNTRIES AND PEOPLES

Letter dated 6 December 1966 from the Permanent Representative of
Somalia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to refer to a letter dated 29 November 1966 addressed to you by the Permanent Representative of Ethiopia on the subject of French Somaliland and circulated as document A/6538 dated 1 December 1966.

The Ethiopian representative has indicated in his communication that the draft resolution on French Somaliland passed by the Organization of African Unity was co-sponsored by Somalia. This is not correct, but since the matter has been raised by Ethiopia, it is pertinent that I should clarify the situation.

The official records of the meeting of the OAU on this matter state that although several countries introduced resolutions and amendments on the question of French Somaliland "none of the draft resolutions was adopted. It was, therefore, decided to ask the following countries to prepare and present another draft resolution to the Committee: Tunisia, Upper Volta, Somalia and Ethiopia. The resolution presented later to the Committee by the Sub-Committee was adopted by 25 votes for, 2 against and 8 abstentions."

While the Somali delegation participated in the work of the Sub-Committee along with Ethiopia, it was not among the co-sponsors of the draft resolution which finally emerged, the reasons being that the resolution fell short of our expectations and purported a fundamental change in the accepted nomenclature of the Territory. Throughout the debate on the question the Somali delegation objected strongly to the change in nomenclature and registered strong reservations at the time the resolution was voted upon.

In fact, the Somali Prime Minister explained to the Conference that the Territory was known only as French Somaliland by the local inhabitants and by the international community at large. A change in nomenclature could only be effected by the inhabitants of the Territory.

I should be grateful if you would kindly circulate the text of this letter to all States Members of the United Nations.

(Signed) Abdulrahim Abby FARAH
Ambassador
Permanent Representative
to the United Nations
