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GENERAL

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PETITION FROM MR. EID IBN OTHMAN AND FOURTEEN OTHERS
CONCERNING SOMALILAND UNDER ITALIAN ADMINISTRATION

Note by the Secretary-General: In accordance with rule 84 and supplementary rules F and L of the rules of procedure for the Trusteeship Council, the Secretary-General has the honour to transmit to the members of the Trusteeship Council, to the Government of Italy as the Administering Authority of the Trust Territory of Somaliland, and to the Governments of Colombia, Egypt, and the Philippines as members of the Advisory Council for the Trust Territory of Somaliland, a communication dated 25 September 1951 from Mr. Eid ibn Othman and fourteen others concerning the Trust Territory of Somaliland under Italian administration.

This communication was transmitted to the Secretary-General by the United Nations Visiting Mission to Trust Territories in East Africa.

Translated from Arabic

To the United Nations Economic, Educational and Social Mission.
Kismayu.

We greet you on our own behalf and on behalf of the inhabitants of Kismayu, and welcome you on your arrival.

We submit the following matters for your consideration.

1) Schools. The inhabitants of Somaliland have chosen Arabic as the official language in schools, since it is the language of the Moslem religion and the language which is spoken in the surrounding districts. Accordingly, we expected the Administering Authority to give importance to Arabic in the schools. Unfortunately, however, the opposite is true, since the Italian Administration is giving importance to its national language and poetry. Moreover, the school syllabuses are very restricted in scope, and the Administration is not doing its duty with regard to Somali education.

2) Public health. The hospitals are few in number and are short of medicines, especially of effective medicines. They lack such necessary requirements as an ambulance, beds, food and clothing.

3) Agriculture. The Italian farmers have set aside the land on both banks of the river and have thus prevented the people from cultivating it. In the same way the crops of our land are being exported to Italy, although we have great need of them.

4) It is quite obvious that Somali life is dependent upon agriculture and cattle, such as cows, camels and sheep, and yet both agriculture and cattle are deprived of water.

In these parts the river Juba discharges into the Indian Ocean and with its overflow used to fill irrigation canals which carried water inland. Shepherds and cattle drovers would go to these canals for water whenever the latter was scarce, but now these canals have become obstructed and the people have been deprived of a half-share of the river water after having been prevented from cultivating the river banks. We have asked the Administration to open these canals but so far without result.

In conclusion, we wish to state that the Italian Administration is doing nothing to promote our progress in the social, economic and educational spheres, but on the contrary is impeding everything which has to do with popular advancement in these fields.

/We submit

We submit these important matters to you and hope that you will be able to give consideration to them.

(15 signatures)
