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GENERAL

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PETITION FROM MR. ADEN SCIRE AND ELEVEN 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 29 September 1951 from Mr. Aden Scire and eleven 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.

LEGA PROGRESSISTA SOMALA

29 September 1951

From the Chiefs of the Darots who have emigrated from Migiurtinia, to the Visiting Mission of the Trusteeship Council of the United Nations

We are the tribal representatives of the Darot tribes which moved into other Somali territories because of the impossibility of living in our native region.

We wish our voice to be joined to that of the other Somali people, all of which you will report to the United Nations Trusteeship Council.

The experience of almost one year of Italian Administration brings us to some conclusions to which we call the authoritative and kindly attention of the United Nations.

As you will certainly have verified by yourselves, the AFIS has made considerable efforts to fulfil its difficult task: the establishment of peace and security, political progress and educational improvement.

But, despite its generous intentions, will Italy alone be able to build up, within the allotted period of time, an autonomous economy in our destitute country, so that it will be possible even to begin talking about political independence? We are convinced that the Visiting Mission is well aware that in the economic field Somaliland is still in a state that is difficult to define, since there are no words to describe its condition.

We therefore beg the Visiting Mission to draw the Trusteeship Council's attention to the absolute and urgent necessity of making the economy of our country the object of the most diligent concern on the part of the United Nations, unless the failure of the experiment that has been initiated is desired.

We cannot, of course, give you advice; we only beseech you to help.

Somaliland is not yet troubled by any real political problems, in spite of the many different organizations springing up everywhere which describe themselves as "political", and the existence of an opposition - prejudiced and completely dominated by foreign interests - to the AFIS, which still makes the mistake of taking this opposition into consideration. These may become real

/real problems

real problems when our independence becomes a reality.

We think that the basis of every one of our problems today is economic inadequacy; unless that is improved, we shall never be able to become a national entity.

If it intends to fulfil the obligations it assumes before the world in regard to Somaliland, the United Nations must therefore institute the most urgent economic provisions, in agreement with the AFIS.

Aden Scire and eleven others
