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GENERAL

T/PET.11/187  
3 December 1951  
ENGLISH  
ORIGINAL: ARABIC

PETITION FROM THE CHIEFS AND LEADERS OF MUDUSH  
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 30 September 1951 from the Chiefs and Leaders of Mudugh 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.

30 September 1951

The authors of this petition are the Chiefs of Mudugh and leaders of Gardo, who govern the tribes and whose signatures appear at the end of this letter.

(1) When we heard of your coming to our land and about your inquiry and your impartiality, we were very thankful to God and decided, for our part, to inform you of the material and spiritual hardships we had to endure. We are many tribes, poor in capital, living on very unproductive land, far from the sea, river or wells or any kind of productive resources, other than dairy products and livestock, which has been stricken by a plague. In regard to this, we humbly ask of you and the generous spirit of the Mission that you help us and look upon us with mercy and kindness and assist us as you are assisting the needy nations, because our fate is in your respectful and impartial hands.

(2) We bring to your attention the trespassing of our land by the Ethiopians, without our permission and unknowingly by us, which caused us serious harm and great tragedy, to the point of killing, imprisoning, raiding and exiling us without any reason. Their invasion of our land is the fault of the United Nations. It is not possible that we remain divided under two governments; this is infinitely difficult. The object of our present request is to order them out as soon as possible before we are annihilated. We ask your quick protection from their harmfulness, wickedness and continued cruelty; the worst of our wordly problems concern the Ethiopians, who forcibly and cruelly appropriated our lands.

(3) We are in need of your help in learning Arabic and other languages, and for medical care.

(4) As to the Italian Administration, in relation to whatever the United Nations stated, we receive hardly any schooling or veterans' monetary pensions.

True Signatures

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