

UNITED NATIONS
TRUSTEESHIP
COUNCIL



Distr.
LIMITED

T/COM.2/L.43
6 November 1957

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

COMMUNICATION FROM MESSRS. S.M. HUMBARA AND A.I. MPONJI
CONCERNING TANGANYIKA

(Circulated in accordance with rule 24 of the rules
of procedure of the Trusteeship Council.)

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

Watu wa Kilio cha Matogoro,
P.O. Box 551,
Dar es Salaam.
1st September 1957

The Chairman,
United Nations Mission,
DAR ES SALAAM

Sir,

MEMORANDUM ON THE MATOGORO LAND

We speak on behalf of our people of Matogoro situated at Songea, Southern Province. We were happy and determined to present this petition to you at the scene, but unfortunately, contrary to our expectation and much to our regret, it has not been possible for you to visit us at the deepest south. The case is not new to you since you hold our petition of 25/2/57 and your reply of 18/3/57. Ref. No. T/PET.2/209 refers.

It will be within the knowledge of your Chairmanship that Government has ousted us from our land without any valid reason whatsoever and that is to say the objection raised up by Government is an unrecognized fact. The Government has persistently held that the main reason is that we cannot live in Matogoro as that is the sources and beginning of water and our continued staying will prompt the drying of the little brooks of water in the area. Government has, in fortifying its pretext added that it intends to plant trees in the area. We on

our part have told the Government that no suggestion could be more preposterous. We object the matter very ironically but truthfully and according to constitution we seem to enjoy neither rights nor protection. If brooks could not dry during the stay of our grand-grand-grandparents with their most primitive agriculture how then could they dry now!!! We have been living there before the adventure of the Europeans. We also told Government that, like the obligation of the disciplinarity, we agree, for all instances, to plant trees on the whole area out of our own funds. Additional to that we will leave cultivating along the rivers to a pace of few yards so as to avoid soil erosion, yet Government has explicitly refused our suggestion and persisted to remove and not return back our land. We have therefore committedly concluded that this is the moving spirit of our Government from the start of its existence to the present time "land, more land and land again for White Settlers"

In a nutshell, Your Chairmanship, Government has failed entirely to convince us whether it has any good intentions. On trying to appeal we were threatened that we would be removed by force and our houses would be burned. It cannot be sustained in the least that Government should rule Africans by threats. Our chiefs were also intimidated: However, it stands in record this day that not a single man would succumb, in spite all sorts of duress. You will agree with us that whenever a matter is discussed Government gives us no indication of any means by which the people could be forced to it against their will, as it has happened to us on Matogoro Area.

We therefore in the name of Watu wa Kilio cha Matogoro take this opportunity of presenting our demands as such:

"there was no justification at all on the part of Government to hustle us out of our own land. The action itself as perpetrated by Government was so inhuman the trust of which we have made you to understand through our memorandum formerly submitted to you.

"it is contrary to both ethnic Customs and the Canon of the Trusteeship Agreement for Tanganyika Government to have hurled citizens in that way. We are repeatedly citing - 'within the limits set up for us by nature we are the masters of that land'.

"we therefore demand that we be given our land back since it was absolutely incapable to the Government side to provide us with a place to settle so much so far we were forced to leave Matogoro.

/...

"We are determined to see that this does not only pass as a mere lipservice. Please see that we get our land. We feel it is our bounden duty to make the Government understand that time has come when the legitimate aspiration of the indigencus Africans should be respected.

"What is a boon for the one is necessarily a bane for the other, alternatively we want that Government that governs least so that our land can not be robbed any longer."

We are your Chairmanship,
Most humbly and most obediently.

1. S.M. HUMBARA.
2. A.I. MPONJI.
