

UNITED NATIONS

TRUSTEESHIP
COUNCIL



LIMITED

T/COM.2/L.5
26 August 1952

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

COMMUNICATION FROM THE RT. HON. FENNER BROCKWAY, M.P.
CONCERNING TANGANYIKA

Note by the Secretary General: In accordance with rule 24 and supplementary rule F of the rules of procedure for the Trusteeship Council and in accordance with paragraphs 9 and 10 of the Report of the Committee on Examination of Petitions (T/L.243 and Corr.1) approved by the Trusteeship Council at its 397th meeting, on 13 March 1952, the Secretary-General has the honour to transmit to the members of the Trusteeship Council and to the Government of Italy as the Administering Authority for the Trust Territory of Somaliland, a communication dated 13 August 1952 from the Rt. Hon. Fenner Brockway, M.P. concerning the Trust Territory of Tanganyika.

COPY

From: Fenner Brockway, M.P. (Eton & Slough)

13th August 1952

The Secretary,
Trusteeship Council of the United Nations,
Lake Success,
New York.

Dear Sir,

Wamoru, Tanganyika Territory

I enclose a copy of a letter which a number of Labour M.P.s and myself have addressed to Rt. Hon. Oliver Lyttelton, the Secretary of State for the Colonies.

I hope you may be able to raise the first point with the American authorities and that it may be within your province to urge that nothing should be done to prejudice the position of the Wamoru until their appeal has been heard.

Yours faithfully,
(sgd.) Fenner Brockway

Encl.

Received at United Nations Headquarters on 18 August 1952.

/COPY

COPY TO: The Secretariat of the Trusteeship Council
of the United Nations

13th August 1952

Dear Lüttelton,

There are two matters regarding the Trusteeship Council resolution about the Wameru which we would like you to consider.

In the first place we have had a report from Mr. Earl Seaton, the African lawyer who represented the Tribe, regarding his interrogation by the officials on landing at the New York airport. He was delayed for two and a half hours whilst they questioned him closely about his association with the Congress of Peoples Against Imperialism, of whose London Committee Denner Brockway is Chairman, and Leslie Hale, Treasurer, and suggested to him that this is a Communist organisation. The point arises as to whether American officials have any right to interrogate an officially accredited representative of a people in the Trusteeship Territories who are authorised to appeal to the Trusteeship Council of the United Nations. There should surely be an absolute right on the part of such representatives to attend the Trusteeship Council without any interception by national officials.

This should apply irrespective of any question of Communism although, in fact, our Congress of Peoples Against Imperialism has no Communist associations and, indeed, meets with the opposition of Communists both in Africa and in Europe. Fifteen Labour M.P.s are associated with our London Committee. The organisation represents the major national democratic movements in most of the British and French Colonies in Africa. Since the Wameru are part of a territory which the Colonial Office administers for the Trusteeship Council, we hope you will raise this matter with the American authorities.

The second point relates to the position of the Wameru themselves. Whilst they are gratified by the resolution of the Trusteeship Council insofar as it regrets the necessity for their forcible eviction, and asks the administering authority not to proceed with further evictions without the consent of the people concerned, they intend to appeal against the decision which endorses their transference to new land. This appeal will, we understand, go to the Fourth Committee and, finally, to the General Assembly in September. We want to urge

/that whilst

that whilst this appeal is pending nothing should be done to finalise the transference of the land and, in particular, that no arrangements should be made for allocating their old land to new settlers.

In fairness, we also suggest that the Wameru themselves should not be left in a position of homelessness and distress until the General Assembly has had an opportunity to consider their appeal. We are informed that many of their cattle are suffering severely because of the lack of grazing land. We hope that you will, in justice to the Tribe, instruct the Government in Tanganyika to provide grazing land for the cattle pending the hearing of the appeal.

We are forwarding a copy of this letter to the Secretariat of the Trusteeship Council so that our proposals on both the above matters may be placed on record.

Yours sincerely,

Fenner Brockway, M.P.	C. Leslie Hale, M.P.
Ernest Fernyhough, M.P.	Harold Davies, M.P.
Stephen Swingler, M.P.	Tom Driburg, M.P.
Walter Monslow, M.P.	George Craddock, M.P.
Reg. Sorensen, M.P.	
