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PETITIONS CONCERNING THE TRUST TERRITORY OF
SOMALILAND UNDER ITALIAN ADMINISTRATION

Draft Report of the Standing Committee on Petitions

Chairman: Mr. L. Smolderen (Belgium)

Table of Contents

Note by the Secretariat: In order to avoid unnecessary duplication of material which has been already circulated in mimeographed form, the present draft report contains only the material to be added to that contained in the Secretariat working paper (T/C.2/L.286) and the draft resolutions. The original material should be considered as forming part of the draft, except where otherwise indicated.7

1. At its 442nd, 443rd and meetings on 10, 13 and May 1957, the Standing Committee on Petitions, composed of the representatives of Belgium, China, France, Guatemala, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland examined the petitions concerning the Trust Territory of Somaliland under Italian administration which are listed in the preceding table of contents.
2. Messrs. V. Zadotti and Omar Mohallim Mohamed participated in the examination as the representative and the Special Representative, respectively, of the Administering Authority concerned. The members of the United Nations Advisory Council for Somaliland also participated in this examination.
3. The Standing Committee submits herewith to the Council its report on these petitions and recommends, in accordance with rule 90, paragraph 6, of the Council's rules of procedure, that the Council decide that no special information is required concerning the action taken on resolution

I. Petition from Mr. El Hajj Said ben Saad (T/PET.11/509)

5. The petition was examined and discussed at the 442nd and meetings of the Standing Committee (documents T/C.2/SR.442 and).

6. At its meeting, the Committee approved by votes to with abstention draft resolution I, annexed to the present report, which it recommends that the Council adopt.

I. Petition from Mr. El Hajj Said ben Saad (T/PET.11/509)

The Trusteeship Council,

Having examined the petition from Mr. El Hajj Said ben-Saad concerning Somaliland under Italian administration in consultation with Italy as the Administering Authority concerned (T/PET.11/509, T/OBS.11/76, T/L.),

1. Takes note of the fact that the Standing Committee on Petitions has examined the supplementary information furnished by the Administering Authority on this petition in accordance with the request contained in resolution 1309 (XVI);
2. Draws the attention of the petitioner to this supplementary information;
3. Recommends to the Administering Authority that it reinstate the right of the petitioner to cultivate the land which he cultivated during and after the war.

II. Petition from Chief Ansciur Mohamud and others (T/PET.11/581)

4. The petition was examined and discussed at the 442nd and meetings of the Standing Committee (documents T/C.2/SR.442 and).
5. At its meeting, the Committee approved by votes to with abstention draft resolution II, annexed to the present report, which it recommends that the Council adopt.

II. Petition from Chief Ansciur Mohamud and others (T/PET.11/581)

The Trusteeship Council,

Having examined the petition from Chief Ansciur Mohamud concerning Somaliland under Italian administration in consultation with Italy as the Administering Authority concerned (T/PET.11/581, T/OBS.11/90, T/L.),

Draws the attention of the petitioners to the observations of the Administering Authority.

III. Petition from Ugas Bul Mahamad (T/PET.11/673)

3. The petition was examined and discussed at the 442nd and meetings of the Standing Committee (documents T/C.2/SR.442 and).

4. The Special Representative indicated that it was now the sole responsibility of the Somali Government to allocate funds for such assistance. The representative of Italy stated that the Administering Authority was prepared to intercede with the Somali Government as to the possibility of granting further assistance to the petitioner.

5. At its meeting, the Committee approved by votes to with abstention draft resolution III, annexed to the present report, which it recommends that the Council adopt.

III. Petition from Ugas Bul Mahamad (T/PET.11/673)

The Trusteeship Council,

Having examined the petition from Ugas Bul Mahamad concerning Somaliland under Italian administration in consultation with Italy as the Administering Authority concerned (T/PET.11/673, T/OBS.11/85, T/L.),

Draws the attention of the petitioner to the observations of the Administering Authority and to the statement of its representative, in particular that the Administering Authority is prepared to intercede with the Somali Government as to the possibility of granting him further assistance.

IV. Petitions from the Somali Youth League, Branch of Galcaio (T/PET.11/676) and from Mr. Hassan Mohamed Isparige (T/PET.11/677)

4. The petition was examined and discussed at the 442nd and meetings of the Standing Committee (documents T/C.2/SR.442 and).
5. The representative of Italy pointed out that the petitioners were entirely free to have recourse to legal action if they considered that their complaint was justified.
6. At its meeting, the Committee approved by votes to with abstention draft resolution IV, annexed to the present report, which it recommends that the Council adopt.

IV. Petitions from the Somali Youth League, Branch of Galcaio (T/PET.11/676) and from Mr. Hassan Mohamed Isparige (T/PET.11/677)

The Trusteeship Council,

Having examined the petitions from the Somali Youth League, Branch of Galcaio and from Mr. Hassan Mohamed Isparige concerning Somaliland under Italian administration in consultation with Italy as the Administering Authority concerned (T/PET.11/676 and 677, T/OBS.11/88, T/L.),

Draws the attention of the petitioners to the observations of the Administering Authority and to the statement of its representative, in particular that they were entirely free to have recourse to legal action if they considered that their complaint was justified.

V. Petition from representatives of the Gerre tribe (T/PET.11/678)

3. The petition was examined and discussed at the 442nd and meetings of the Standing Committee (documents T/C.2/SR.442 and).
4. At its meeting, the Committee approved by votes to with abstention draft resolution V, annexed to the present report, which it recommends that the Council adopt.

V. Petition from representatives of the Gerre tribe (T/PET.11/678)

The Trusteeship Council,

Having examined the petition from representatives of the Gerre tribe concerning Somaliland under Italian administration in consultation with Italy as the Administering Authority concerned (T/PET.11/678, T/OBS.11/89, T/L.),

1. Draws the attention of the petitioners to the observations of the Administering Authority, in particular, that the petitioners may appeal to the Court of Justice as a last resort;
2. Recalls its resolution 1320 (XVI);
3. Reaffirms the hope that the Administering Authority will take the necessary steps to improve the economic situation in the area in order that the causes of disputes between the tribes may be averted.

VI. Petition from Sheikh Abucar Sheikh Ahmed (T/PET.11/682), from Mr. Ali Nur Abucar (T/PET.11/688) and from Messrs. Ali Sheikh Gess, Ghedi Santur Ahmed and others (T/PET.11/689)

12. The petition was examined and discussed at the 442nd, 443rd and meetings of the Standing Committee (documents T/C.2/SR.442, 443 and).

13. The Special Representative stated that the Somali Government had approved a new Cotton Ordinance on 26 March 1957 dividing the cotton-growing districts of the Territory into three zones according to the variety of the cotton being produced, and virtually abolishing the "tied" system. It is no longer compulsory therefore, for growers to hand their crops to particular ginneries; the only restriction which is maintained under the new Ordinance is that cotton must be ginned in the zone in which it is grown. Subsequently, the lint cotton may be sold wherever the owner wishes.

14. The Chairman of the United Nations Advisory Council for Somaliland observed that, in the opinion of the Council, judgement could not be passed on the effectiveness of the present Ordinance until the results of the experiments being carried out at the moment were known. He added that the Somali Government, which now has exclusive jurisdiction over the Territory's internal affairs, would seem to be the best judge as to whether a particular regulation was beneficial or not to the Somali cotton growers.

15. At its meeting, the Committee approved by votes to with abstention draft resolution VI, annexed to the present report, which it recommends that the Council adopt.

VI. Petitions from Sheikh Abucar Sheikh Ahmed (T/PET.11/682),
from Mr. Ali Nur Abucar (T/PET.11/688) and from
Messrs. Ali Sheikh Gess, Ghedi Santur Ahmed and others
(T/PET.11/689)

The Trusteeship Council,

Having examined the petitions from Sheikh Abucar Sheikh Ahmed, from Mr. Ali Nur Abucar, and from Messrs. Ali Sheikh Gess, Ghedi Santur Ahmed and others concerning Somaliland under Italian administration in consultation with Italy as the Administering Authority concerned (T/PET.11/682, 688 and 689, T/OBS.11/91, T/L.),

Draws the attention of the petitioners to the observations of the Administering Authority and to the statement of its Special Representative in particular that:

(a) the plan for Ordinance No. 4 of 3 February 1956 had been drawn up by a special working committee, in which Somali farmers took part, and had been approved by the Territorial Council;

(b) a new Cotton Ordinance has been approved on 26 March 1957, abolishing the "tied" system;

(c) once the matter of cotton production has been regulated, it will be possible to move on gradually to a more liberal system.

VII. Petition from the Somali Youth League, Branch of Eil (T/PET.11/684)

3. The petition was examined and discussed at the 443rd and meetings of the Standing Committee (documents T/C.2/SR.443 and).

4. At its meeting, the Committee approved by votes to with abstention draft resolution VII, annexed to the present report, which it recommends that the Council adopt.

VII. Petition from the Somali Youth League, Branch of Eil (T/PET.11/684)

The Trusteeship Council,

Having examined the petition from the Somali Youth League, Branch of Eil concerning Somaliland under Italian administration in consultation with Italy as the Administering Authority concerned (T/PET.11/684, T/OBS.11/88, T/L.),

1. Draws the attention of the petitioners to the observations of the Administering Authority;
2. Takes note with appreciation of the fact that the matter has been settled to the satisfaction of the petitioners.

VIII. Petition from Mr. Giama Mohamed Afrah and others (T/PET.11/685)

4. The petition was examined and discussed at the 443rd and meetings of the Standing Committee (documents T/C.2/SR.443 and).
5. At its meeting, the Committee approved by votes to with abstention draft resolution VIII, annexed to the present report, which it recommends that the Council adopt.

VIII. Petition from Mr. Giama Mohamed Afrah and others (T/PET.11/685)

The Trusteeship Council,

Having examined the petition from Mr. Giama Mohamed Afrah and others concerning Somaliland under Italian administration in consultation with Italy as the Administering Authority concerned (T/PET.11/685, T/OBS.11/89, T/L.),

1. Draws the attention of the petitioners to the observations of the Administering Authority;
2. Takes note with appreciation of the fact that the matter has been settled to the satisfaction of the petitioners.
