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PETITION FROM MR. G.A. STOWERS
CONCERNING WESTERN SAMOA

(Circulated in accordance with rule 85, paragraph 2 of the
rules of procedure of the Trusteeship Council)

Apia, June 16th, 1957
Western Samoa

United Nations Organization,

Gentlemen,

My last petition handed to the Pacific Mission of May last year is still a mystery to me why haven't I been informed of what has become of it.^{1/}

Now that Mr. Smith is again chosen to represent N.Z. as her representative of this Trust Territory I hope that he will return with something good for us.

This place is in a very bad state facing bankruptcy (read G's letter Bulletin May 24th). Through the blunders and extravagant of the High Commissioner and Co. The Chief Judge Mr. Marrsach knew very well that W. Samoa is overloaded and yet when he went to N.Z. last yr. he came back with an associate judge. Take my case, no encouragment nor opportunity for local-borns and Samoans, 2 Civil Engineers are employed now, one from Aust. the other N.Z. but I have been after that, yet ignored discarded why? no qualification, but I can point out blunders, topsy-turvy, waste, half-done, real necessary, useful and essential projects which is untouched or overlooked. As I mentioned before I know of no one taking this profession up so why turn me down? And as far as Scholarship is concerned

1/ Note by the Secretariat

The petition referred to above was regarded as having been submitted for the information of the Visiting Mission and was therefore not transmitted to the Secretary-General for individual consideration by the Trusteeship Council.

N.Z. goes to a certain extent then stop (read Bulletin May 24th). Samuel Atoa B.A. at B.Y.U. Ntah N.S.A. and I suppose it has come under your notice the Stone crusher affair. Blunders are increasing alarmingly, but the Bulletin does not mention all that takes place because its Editor T.J.D. is a N.Z. as a matter of fact 6 letters of mine to the Editor criticize the Administering Authority here is burried somewhere. The Public works has now 15 officials (instead of decreasing its increasing) or employers from overseas. Why the increase when W. Samoa is able capable and sufficient to battle her own canow, is just for some to gain knowledge and experience - this is mostly used as an experimental ground, when local-borns and natives are howling and rightly demanding for opportunities and employment.

Take B. Frost's case, every local-born U.L.A. had a hand at it, but the thing is so tangled up through the High Commissioner and Co. that on Frost's part it seems its a waste of time and money to carry on. What his father bought for \$100 is now running up to £100 for him to regain his property. My father, (A. Stowers), E.F. Raul, W.H. Moors and now P.L.M. Morgan is handling it but how far will it go?

If I can get all or some of my burried letters send to the Bulletin I will sent them.

New Zealand is in such an unfriendly nature with us now that 2 of my sons were declined from entering N.Z. for education though my eldest daughter has been there for 8 yrs. now.

So far N.Z. is having her own way and carrying out her own suggestions and schemes through the advice of a few hard-hearted and tight-fisted fellows that the place is in a chaos state.

I am enclosing "Press Release"^{1/} and Town Planning, it is supposed to be thought out and planned by brainy heads, but they overlooked that Apia is

1/ Note by the Secretariat

The enclosure referred to above has been placed in the Secretariat files and is available to members of the Trusteeship Council on request.

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half-swampy and unless that is remedied, the money and work spent in this undertaking would be of no use. I got the solution.

I am very brief and I hope this will arrive there before you commence your June meeting.

May God with us..

Yours faithfully

G.A. STOWERS

Letter No. 3

United Nations Organization,

Apia,
Western Samoa

Gentlemen,

I again petition you to have a second lood and pity us, for I know what I am talking, thinking and expecting will surely come to pass, a spark lights a big fire and as the Man of the early '30's is still fresh in my memory and which caused the death of Tamasese and eleven others was the outcome of a slow putting of decision, I am afraid what happened then will happen again only in a much worse state the 2nd time.

At present, W. Samoa is at the verge of bankruptcy and what happened in France (Revolution) at the turn of the 17th century through oppression of the poor - the same is felt very much at present here because ever since N.Z. took over in 1914 progress came to a stand still and I can see dark clouds are gathering over W. Samoa unless steps are taking immediately to settle things. The trouble will surely ferment and burst.

Take 1st our 4 paramount chiefs (All kingly families) 2 with the Malo (Fautua) 2 not, but are now starting a movement as a Union of Planters and is increasing rapidly, it is alright from the commercial side, but a least blunder or wrong move by the (Malo) Gov. when Independent granted, what will happen? Wouldn't this 2 fall back on their supporters (the majority) and wage trouble? Why will it be trouble? Money is the cause and root of all evils. At present W. Samoa is footing these uncalled for expenses.

2 Fautua at	£1350	£2710
besides cars and cars allowances		
6 members at	£900 p.a. (Executive)	<u>5400</u>
		£8110

This amount is (to my opinion) money thrown into the sea because it is not warranted.

The 1st. Constitutional Convention should be squashed out entirely. The decisions arrived at about the Fautua is unfair even though I might mention that I am 1st Cousin to Malietoa and Tamasese as an old friend and a school-mate, but that does not prevent me from wishing to see justice prevail.

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2nd In this tiny tot, of less than 100,000, the members in parliament will be 48, what absurd. In Australia it's 18,000 of the population to 1 member in parliament. In N.Z. its 12,500 and W.S. on the verge of bankruptcy leads the world with 1 to every 2073 of the population. I am sure something better could be done than this stupidity. Under the new set-up all of the Territory's revenue will go to the pockets of these few for their (some deserve it, others don't) wages. As I wrote before its through a few hard-headed, tight-fisted fellows, but they will not be here when trouble would burst, so I petition you for I love, cherish and regard my country as my home even though the Samoans are looking with envious eyes on us (local-borns) and I am sure the majority would push us aside unless we become matais 3rd which is another stupidity for them only to vote. Hold on United Nations we can do something better than push, rush and take for granted things as they are at present look at the future lay the foundation solidly, smoothly and quietly saves a lot of head-aches, blame and dishonour.

I am brief, my English is not perfect, but there's nothing like trying, especially I must warn you before hand and even if you don't heed my advice, I keep on hammering for the sake of justice and its fruit Peace. Prevention is better than cure, so I suggest another Constitutional Convention be called, for what is the use of the brains and the whole body if the spine is broken; almost and the most important movements of our bodies depends on the spine if it is broken or deformed movements is absolutely hopeless. Its the same with any country, if the set-up (foundation) is not solid and properly laid hopeless is the race.

I am touching on the roots of what is causing unrest, dissatisfaction and trouble. The N.Z. Gov. at her decision in the Mataafa case heard at Lands and Titles Court Mulinuu over 20 years ago was unfair. The real heir to the title, Ivani (grand son of the famous warrior Mataafa Iosefo who fought and beat the 3 Great Powers) was not recognized but an old, old connection (where is illegitimate?) to Faumuina died 1949 was accepted, no doubt because at the time of the Man he was a 5th column, And where is law and order? If this unfair decision was released when Samoa was still in her primitive state bloodshed would have been the result.

The Copra question is an old, old one, the real dissatisfaction is again money. The Govt. deducts 8/- in £ of its value besides tax etc. (mind 40%??)

Everything in W. Samoa is topsy-turvy, up-side down, political, social, commercial etc. etc., it would take some witty, genius, patient and broad minded heads to heal the deformed spine and to untangle the tangled chain to restore harmony, order and peace, of course the non-educated, narrow-minded generation is rapidly dwindling out, and we will have to face more trouble as the understanding malamalama from the outside world takes its place.

This is enough to keep you busy for a while (if you do me a favour) for consideration.

Yours faithfully,

G.A. Stowers

P.S. I got nothing against Mataafa. He is 2nd cousin to me. His mother is Malietoa's auntie, but honour, riches and glory does not prevent me from appreciating justice.

I am not running anybody down neither am I praising one and ignoring the other but where credit is due, and justice is the rule there I am whole-heartedly.

G.A.S.
