

UNITED NATIONS
TRUSTEESHIP
COUNCIL



GENERAL
T/PET. 2/117
3 October 1951
- ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

PETITION FROM The Waluguru of Kibungo-Matombo
CONCERNING Tanganyika

Note by the Secretary-General: In accordance with rule 84 and supplementary rule F of the rules of procedure for the Trusteeship Council, 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 of the Trust Territory of Somaliland, an undated communication from The Waluguru of Kibungo-Matombo concerning the Trust Territory of Tanganyika.

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

Translated from Kiswahili

MEMORANDUM FROM THE WALUGURU OF KIBUNGO-MATOMBO-
IN MOROGORO DISTRICT TO THE UNO VISITING MISSION
TO TANGANYIKA AT MOROGORO.

The Chairman

The UNO Visiting Mission to Tanganyika.

Dear Sir,

We, the Wamguru of Kibungo who have signed or put finger prints in the accompanying sheets - 1793 - represents the 4,000 or more people of this area who wants the UNO to hear our complaints.

We are catholics who have to go to Church on Sunday to Matombo which is about five hours walk. And there are a lot of difficulties apart from the distance, such as mountains, hills and above all strong rivers during the rain seasons. On this account we the 4000 Catholics with The Headman (who is a clan leader) of this area have agreed together to ask the Missionaries in this area and to offer a small piece of land on which to build a church so as to remove our difficulties.

When we informed the Government about this in 1947 The Government seemed unwilling to comply with our proposal. They did however send an officer to measure and mark the ground we want to give for the church. They promised to let us know their decision soon afterwards. But until this year nothing was heard. During this year on reminding then a District Officer Mr. Harris came to Kibungo, on the 14th August and called a sudden meeting. Due to the suddenness only a few people with the Headman gathered. And there Mr. Harris told the meeting that he does not allow them to have this ground for the church to be built. If they wanted a church the mission ought to built one in another place, far away, which is a Mission Ground. That place is far and on the other side of the river. The people and the headman demanded the place they want and they did not like the other place because:

1. The other place is not as good as Kibungo.
2. Kibungo has a far greater population.
3. The trouble of crossing rivers.

Even though Mr. Harris said that he still refuses to allow them to have their ground for the church. Then after a lot of shouting he told them, as a way of

/escape,

escape, that he would think about it and give an answer probably sometimes in December. Then he left. Later it was learned that he told the Mtwara (subchief) that he totally refuses to allow that.

So we, men and women who have signed raise the complain on be half of the 4000 and we and we want you to know that we in this are refused to have our land and use it for our own benefit and particularly on matters of religion. It is not that the Missionaries who want the land but we the indiginous people of Kibungo want to have our own church on our land so as we may not suffer the trouble of going far.

If the Government feared that our land would be lost to the Missionaries they are mistaken because first, we are not too stupid to see to that. Second now the number of native priests is going up very rapidly and thus the time is not far when we have our own people for the church. Now will all these native of the land be refused to have land because they are priests? But more important **is the fact** that the (Local) British Govt. here is being unfair here for refusing the sole owner of the land to use it for the benefit of the people who own it. We do not consider this to be just. And we have the impression that the Government is snatching the land out of our hands and so we have no right to our own land.

So we who have signed and the rest wants the UNO which exists for the Freedom and Human Rights of all the people to see and consider this question.

The signatories are of the people who were able to meet and do so in different villages of Kibungo. The illiterate have put finger prints against their names.

We hope that the UNO visiting Mission will realise the situation and consider our question.

Greetings and Gods Blessing to you.

We are
The Wamaguru of Kibuungo
(Signed) Gauli Hasegwa
and by 1792 othe rs.
