

UNITED NATIONS
TRUSTEESHIP
COUNCIL



GENERAL

T/PET.2/138
8 October 1951

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

PETITION FROM MR. A.P.M. NJAU 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, a communication dated 11 September 1951 from Mr. A.P.M. Njau 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.

COPY

c/o Marangu School,
P.O. Box 9 Moshi
Vunjo, Uchagga, T.T.
11th September 1951.

The Secretary,
The U.N.O. Visiting Mission,
u.f.s. The District Commissioner,
MCSHI, T.T.

Sir,

With reference to what I gathered from your previous visit, I have the honour to forward herewith a petition on Tanganyika Constitutional Development which, I am sure, will help to clarify some matters which you were wrongly impressed during your last brief tour in the Territory.

I earnestly believe that you will be able to put the matter under serious and careful investigation.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Yours faithfully,

A.P.M. NJAU.

/Marangu

Marangu Vunjo.

7th September, 1951.

TANGANYIKA CONSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

If the policy of the administration of the Territory is to increase the powers of Native Authorities in the field of local government as they become more qualified - by experience and by the broadening and "democratization of the basis of Native Administration - to assume greater responsibility, it is quite impracticable according to the existing political conditions in the Native Authorities in the Territory. In the opinion of the Chagga Africans increasing share should be given to the educated and experienced African chiefs who are qualified by their wisdom and experience to participate in the general administration of the Territory and of the Native Authorities. The present political tension which exists in various parts of the Territory is fundamentally based on the very fact. The Territorial Constitutional reform will prove a failure, if the highly educated Africans will be denied equal opportunity irrespective of race in matters affecting the administration of the Territory. As there is a limited number of highly educated Africans, should a need arise for the selection of a suitable candidate for filling up any vacancy in the Administration should be taken by a Government Official or Native Authority. Hence the need for the predominance of Government Officials in all political representations and activities in the Territory. At present no race is merited to take any leadership in the Territory.

It is regrettable fact that there is no machinery through which inter-racial co-operation and harmony can be exercised and maintained. Hence the existing selfishness by some races in the Territory. At present there is no legislation for or against racial discrimination.

We think most Africans would like to remain as they are being ruled under U.N.O. with Official majorities in all spheres of political life of the Territory. The Constitutional Committee, which was made up of Europeans, Africans and Asians, we are very cautious as they could be, when they reported that the official majority on the Council to continue and that each of the said races should have seven unofficial members on the Legislative Council. Should any change be brought without taking into account the African cultural background

/and European

and European civilisation based on Christian ethical principles of life, it will prove dangerous not only to the races in the Territory but to the World.

In Tanganyika there are seven million African inhabitants. As Africans have become entrenched through long-established residence, the problem is primarily one of the attitudes of dominant groups to subordinate or less privileged groups. Any political change may which will not take into consideration the predominance of African interests at heart, the consequence of such a change may bring a lack of national unity and cohesion, developing inter group tensions and unreckoned amount of frustration, embitterment, and psychopathological disorganisation. We as Africans, Europeans and Asians, our attitudes are not as yet attuned either to the conditions necessary for the change as given in the Constitutional reform now under consideration by the public.

We earnestly hope that the Government as well as the United Nations Organisation will stand firm on our behalf till we are politically experienced and educated to stand ourselves through your guidance.

Yours, etc.,

A.P.M. Njau.

Copy to:- The Tanganyika Standard, Dar es Salaam.
