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UNITED NATIONS
TRUSTEESHIP
COUNCIL



Distr.
GENERAL

T/PET.9/13
25 March 1953

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

PETITION FROM MR. THOMA Q. CONCERNING NAURU

Note by the Secretary-General: In accordance with rule 85 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 March 1953 from Mr. Thoma Q. concerning the Trust Territory of Nauru.

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

COPY

Aiwo District
Nauru,
Central Pacific
11th March, 1953.

The Chairman,
United Nations Visiting Mission,
N A U R U

Dear Sir,

I beg leave to bring forward my case for your review and kind consideration.

During my term of office as Chief of the District of Aiwo, I did not receive any remuneration whatsoever as all the other Chiefs did. I have submitted to the Administrator and to the Rt. Hon. The Minister for Territories Paul Hasluck, my application to receive remuneration for my services as chief, but was not successful.

As my conscience tells me that I had not been given justice in this matter, I am bringing same forward for your kind consideration.

For your information, I am attaching herewith the copies of the applications and the replies I received for them.

I beg to remain,

Your servant,

(Signed)

THOMA Q.
(Thoma Q.)

Received through the Visiting Mission to the Pacific Islands, 1953, at United Nations Headquarters: 17 March 1953.

Note by the Secretariat: The above-mentioned enclosures have been placed in the files of the Secretariat and are available to members of the Trusteeship Council upon request. A summary of these enclosures is annexed to this document.

Summary of the enclosures to the petition

The petitioner, who has occupied his post as Chief of the Aiwo District since 10 August 1946, without receiving any remuneration for his services, encloses correspondence dating back to 29 January 1949.

In his first letter addressed to the Administrator of Nauru, he claims remuneration retroactive as to the date of his election as Chief, and states that, in order to carry out his duties as chief without detriment to his work as a senior medical orderly, he has for the last two years worked on the night shift at the Nauru Administration hospital.

On 12 February the Administrator replied that the matter had been referred to the Council of Chiefs.

A letter dated 23 February from Mr. T. Detudamo, the Head of this Council to the Administrator affirms that Mr. Thoma regularly attends meetings of the Council 5 days a week.

On 10 December Mr. Thoma again wrote to the Administrator complaining that no further action had been taken in his case.

On 14 December the Official Secretary replied that the former Administrator had not seen his way clear to admit Mr. Thoma's request. He would, however, refer the matter to the new Administrator after his arrival. At the same time he reminded the petitioner that "the proposed Council reconstruction envisages the payment of an allowance to all elected members".

In the next letter, dated 8 October 1952, Mr. Detudamo, as Native Affairs Officer, writing to the Administrator, informs him that Mr. Thoma has applied for remuneration for his services retroactive to 10 August 1946, the date when he was appointed Chief of Aiwo. Mr. Detudamo affirms that Mr. Thoma has never failed to attend the Council meetings, and that his work in the Public Health Department never interferes with his services as Chief.

On 9 October the Secretary to the Administrator informs Mr. Detudamo that Mr. Thoma's application has been turned down, and he in turn informs Mr. Thoma of this fact on 10 October.

By a letter dated 10 November Mr. Thoma submits his claim to the Australian Minister for Territories and he claims that of the present chiefs, exclusive of the Head Chief, eight do and three do not receive pay as chiefs. He states that

one of the explanations offered for this is that the former do not work for the Administration and the latter group, to which the petitioner belongs, does. However, Mr. Thoma claims that his two colleagues are in reality being paid inasmuch as that no deduction is made from their pay although performance of their Chief's duties falls within their normal working hours for the Administration.

In his reply dated 17 January 1952, the Minister of Territories, informs Mr. Thoma that District Chiefs employed by the Administration have in fact been allowed time off to attend weekly meetings of Chiefs and the monthly meeting with the Administrator without any deduction from their normal pay. This concession would have also been available to the petitioner had he not, of his own accord, worked continuously on night duty. His request for additional remuneration in respect of his services as a District Chief cannot, therefore, be approved.
