

UNITED NATIONS

TRUSTEESHIP

COUNCIL: MASIE

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GENERAL

T/PET.11/105  
1 November 1951

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Handwritten notes in a box: "E I M I QW"

PETITION FROM THE "UNIONE DIFESA DELLA SOMALIA",  
MOGADISCIO CONCERNING SOMALILAND UNDER  
ITALIAN ADMINISTRATION

Note by the Secretary-General: In accordance with rule 84 and supplementary

rules F and L of the rules of procedure for the Trusteeship Council, the Secretary-General has the honour to transmit to the members of the Trusteeship Council, to the Government of Italy as the Administering Authority of the Trust Territory of Somaliland, and to the Governments of Colombia, Egypt, and the Philippines as members of the Advisory Council for the Trust Territory of Somaliland, a communication dated 1 October 1951 from the "Unione Difesa della Somalia", Mogadiscio concerning the Trust Territory of Somaliland under Italian administration. This communication was transmitted to the Secretary-General by the United Nations Visiting Mission to Trust Territories in East Africa.

Mogadiscio, 11 1 October 1951

To:

U.N.O. VISITING COMMISSION

MOGADISCIO

This Union (the only party admitting people of all races and religions living in Somalia), whilst having nothing to say about the way politics and education are handled by AFIS, has, nevertheless, a lot to say about the economical situation which is getting worse and worse.

Unemployment, want and the cost of living (which is already 100% higher than in British times) are increasing day by day.

Efforts are being made to divert the attention of the population from the economical factor by endless arguments about present and future political questions and the form of education to be adopted. But the people who are asking for work cannot be deceived indefinitely by this method.

Motor-transport and the trade with the neighbouring territories which formed once the basis of our economical life, have been wiped out. The hundreds of military vehicles with repair-shops of their own, imported here by AFIS, have deprived of their means of living not only the motor-transport contractors (most of whom are non-Europeans), but the thousands upon thousands of people who lived on them directly or indirectly.

Nothing has been done to replace these most important activities by any other Government or private enterprises.

Also the traditional trade with Eastern countries like Japan, Hongkong, India, etc. which could supply us with goods up to 70% cheaper than Italian goods, has been stopped "for lack of Sterling". As a result many traders are on the verge of ruin and our poor people will not be able to buy many essential things for raising extremely low standard of living.

It is not our task to investigate the causes of this disastrous economical situation, it is the task of U.N.O. who, in our opinion, should see to it that the appointed Trusteeship Power is provided with the means not only for the administration of the territory and the education of its population, but especially for the promised development of all branches of its economy, for a sound economy is the basis of life of any nation destined to become really independent.

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As for the Europeans living in Somalia, excepting the newly imported ones and a small group of specially protected farmers and Government contractors who are extremely well off, there are many old and experienced residents who have lately fallen into a deplorable state of want for the reasons explained above. Some of these old residents who feel themselves closely tied up with our country and its people, in bringing their cases to the knowledge of AFIS, were dismissed with words like this 'If you are unable to carry on, just go away'. And in fact some of them who had the means to do so, have already left or are preparing to leave for other more prosperous African territories and Somalia is being deprived of precious elements of its population who could be very helpful in its future independent life.

We think that it is high time that something should be done about the matters described above, for discontent is spreading and economical troubles may lead to political trouble and deplorable outbursts.

UNIONE DIFESA DELLA SOMALIA

The President:

(Sgd.) HAJI OMAR ANBUHE

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