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PETITION FROM THE "ASSOCIAZIONE MANIFERRO SOMALIA"
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, two communications dated 20 and 23 September 1951 from the "Associazione Maniferro Somalia" concerning the Trust Territory of Somaliland under Italian administration.

These communications were transmitted to the Secretary-General by the United Nations Visiting Mission to Trust Territories in East Africa.

Mogadiscio, 20 September 1951

(FROM) THE "ASSOCIAZIONE MANIFERRO SOMALIA" TO THE UNITED NATIONS VISITING MISSION IN SOMALILAND

Our Association includes in its ranks, without any racial discrimination, all the industrious Somali persons whose high purpose will serve in forming the independent Somaliland of tomorrow.

We claim, therefore, to be the economic framework on which the most worthy state of independence will be constructed in Somaliland.

Our Association is a young party still in process of organization and the majority of members come from the parties formerly grouped under the CONFERENZA DELLA SOMALIA. As soon as this organization showed signs of breaking up, our independent organization was formed.

A fundamental tenet of our programme is active co-operation with the Italian Administration. We have always appreciated the efforts of the AFIS in various fields to establish the foundations of an independence which is to be established, not on the manifestation of the fitness of a nation for self-government, but within a given period. This is a truly difficult undertaking.

Such being the case, we consider it our duty towards our country to avail ourselves of any and all possible means which may help to accomplish such a difficult task.

In this memorandum, therefore, we shall give the Visiting Mission our critical opinion of the administration of Somaliland after more than one year of trusteeship.

There are two causes for a certain ill feeling of the people towards the administration. While they are contrary one to the other, they are related. The first is an over-generous tolerance towards a blind, violent and prejudiced political opposition; the second is a laxness in showing suitable goodwill towards political organizations which are already prepared to co-operate fully with the Administration. We think that bitter enemies treated with excessive patience and loyal friends (who could, however, change their minds), treated with friendly disregard, could both create general unrest in the future.

We, like any other productive element, must not lose sight of the welfare of our country. We beg the honourable Visiting Mission to exert a
/beneficent influence

beneficent influence in advising the AFIS to take a more realistic view of the political associations existing in the territory. The AFIS should unite into one party those who intend to co-operate -- and who are, by the way, the most numerous and the only ones who have any contribution to offer -- leaving out those who wage bitter and unconstructive opposition and who, numerically and from a productive point of view, are negligible.

Should the honourable Visiting Mission exert its influence in such a beneficent way, it will leave behind it an undeniable proof of the goodwill of the United Nations towards this country, which stands so much in need of help and goodwill from every side.

This "Associazione Maniferro Somalia" would like to discuss another equally important matter with the Visiting Mission.

We will ask to make this new statement when the Visiting Mission is back in Mogadiscio.

Ali Raghe

President of the A.M.S.

Note by the Secretariat: The same communication was received from the "Associazione Maniferro Somalia", District of Merca, dated 23 September 1951 and signed by its President, Mr. Hassan Mohamed.
