



UNITED NATIONS

TRUSTEESHIP
INDEX UNIT



GENERAL

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[Handwritten signature]

PETITION FROM THE PUPILS OF THE EVENING SCHOOL, MERCA
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, an undated communication from the Pupils of the Evening School, Merca 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.

Translated from Arabic

To the representatives of the United Nations Trusteeship Council.

We, in our capacity as students at the evening school, express our gratitude and humble respects on your visit which will promote the progress of our country. We greatly hope that your visit will promote respect for human rights of which we have long been deprived and which we hope to obtain sooner or later through the good offices of the United Nations.

We wish to complain to you with regard to teaching. Since the Trusteeship Administration took over until the present time the method of instruction is not in line with that of the free peoples; on the contrary, the syllabus which is laid down is unsuitable in practice and there is no teaching equipment. Although Arabic is the chosen language of the whole people, the Trusteeship Administration is devoting little attention to it.

In particular, we students of the Merca evening school have asked, and continue to ask, that we be permitted to study Arabic, but to our regret we have not yet been permitted to do so.

A number of us asked the currency control authorities for permission to send twenty pounds to Professor Mohammed Fhaïq Al-Jawhary, Principal of a correspondence school in Egypt, to subscribe to the Arabic language course. For four months now we have despaired of obtaining Arabic instruction and have so far failed in our request. The currency control authorities have answered us to the effect there are sufficient schools in Somaliland, although they are aware that the principles of the United Nations are contained in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Article 19, which states the following: "[Everyone has the right] to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers."

It is our firm hope that we shall be enabled to obtain our desire through your good offices, since it is possible for you to ensure that the principles of the United Nations are observed.

(unsigned)
