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PETITION FROM THE "LEGA PROGRESSISTA SOMALA", BRANCH OF GALCAIO
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 30 September 1951 from the "Lega Progressista Somala", Branch of Galcaio 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.

LEGA PROGRESSISTA SOMALA

30 September 1951

Most Honourable Gentlemen of the United Nations Visiting Mission:

We, the members of the LEGA PROGRESSISTA SOMALA, Galcaio branch, thank you for coming here, and in greeting you we also greet and thank the United Nations, which sent you to Somaliland for our own sake and the sake of our country. We are fully aware that the United Nations has always worked for our independence and we hope that Allah will always make you come to our help.

The Italian Administration, which has been entrusted by the United Nations with the task of leading us to independence, has tried in this first year to bring peace, work and freedom. It has built schools and hospitals and has created other democratic institutions. The AFIS has not achieved everything in this first year, for such things always require time. But we have seen what has been accomplished in one year and we are sure that before the end of the Trusteeship mandate the Italian Administration will have done everything promised by the authorities.

There is only one thing about which we are not happy: the frontier with Ethiopia. We have constantly drawn the attention of the United Nations to this problem, which gives rise to many difficulties.

We, Migiurtini and Averghidir, lack space because we have been deprived of our land and many of our brothers are still under the Ethiopians, suffering from the lack of freedom. We have sent numbers of telegrams to the United Nations about this problem but have received no answer. We tell you that you must survey this frontier and deal with this problem, because we want a fair frontier line.

We of the LEGA PROGRESSISTA SOMALA beg you, gentlemen of the Visiting Mission, to take an interest in this problem, about which we would like to have a word concerning it from the United Nations.

We trust we will get this word.

/We of the LEGA

We of the LEGA PROGRESSISTA have nothing but love for Somaliland and we intend to work for our welfare. But you will find in this region people who do not want peace and welfare. They want only disorder. These people do not want Somaliland to become great, for when there is disorder it is impossible to work and the Government cannot think about welfare. We are convinced that these people get money, assistance and orders from some distant foreign Power which intends to impede the progress of Somaliland. These people do not want to follow our faith any longer. They no longer want to listen to the Chiefs. They say they want to co-operate with the Government, but they lie; behind the back of the authorities they talk to other people to persuade them to make protests. They are ruining Somaliland.

We want to follow the law of the prophet Mohamed. We want the chiefs of the tribes to be respected. When the authorities give us orders we obey them, because we can obtain our independence only by keeping order and collaborating with the authorities. If Italy obeys the orders of the United Nations, we must obey the orders of the Italian Government, because this is the only way to achieve peace, progress and political freedom.

We want our country to be helped by the United Nations. Our land is poor. We have nothing and with the help of the United Nations we can go forward.

We thank you, gentlemen, for your visit and we pray God that your visit will be of benefit to Somaliland.

Long live Somaliland, Long live the United Nations, Long live AFIS.

Hagi Daher Set, Secretary

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