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PETITION FROM MR. MOHAMED SCEK OSMAN, SECRETARY-GENERAL
OF THE "UNIONE AFRICANI SOMALI" CONCERNING
SOMALILAND UNDER ITALIAN ADMINISTRATION

Note by the Secretary-General: In accordance with rule 85 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 November 1951 from Mr. Mohamed Scek Osman, Secretary-General of the "Unione Africani Somali" concerning the Trust Territory of Somaliland under Italian administration. This communication was transmitted to the Secretary-General by the United Nations Advisory Council for the Trust Territory of Somaliland under Italian administration.

UNION OF AFRICANI IN SOMALILAND

Headquarters - Mogadiscio

Mogadiscio, 30 November 1951.

TO: The United Nations Advisory Council.

Copy for information to: The Italian Trusteeship Administration
of Somaliland.

I, the undersigned, MOHAMED SCEK OSMAN, Secretary General of the "Union of Africani in Somaliland" and Territorial Councillor, have the honour to set out the following:

The plan of political reform for the Territory of Somaliland, relating to the year 1952 provided for the allotment, in the Territorial Council, of seats to the various political parties in proportion to the efficiency and activity of the parties themselves, as well as in accordance with the number of branches existing at 30 June 1951, and of branches which although constituted after such date have at least 200 members.

In conformity with such a criterion, a single seat was allotted to the party of "Union of Africani in Somaliland".

It was pointed out to both the Administration and the Territorial Council, that although my party had been unable to regularize its branches position by the prescribed date, nevertheless it numbered in total 32 branches, and all those constituted after 30 June had more than the 200 members required, and that therefore the party was entitled to have not only one single representative in the Territorial Council, but two.

On that occasion it was pointed out to me that, at least for the year 1952, that was not possible, because the branches had not been regularized in accordance with the provisions of article 3 of the Reform Plan.

I am not going to deny that, in fact, there has been a delay in arranging for the regularization, which actually was done after the fixed date, but it should be borne in mind that, while after the statement I made at the meeting of 4 September of the Territorial Council the last date for the regularization was protracted to the 1st of September, the regularization of my party's branches, for various reasons, could be effected only between the 10th and the 20th of the same month of September.

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Since in the Plan it is stated that any party requesting acknowledgement of a new branch can obtain without difficulty provided that it produces a list of no fewer than 200 members, there ought not to be too much rigidity in the application of article 3 of the Plan, also because the party "Union of Africani in Somaliland" has to-day 45 branches.

I do not think, therefore, that a party which has such a great number of branches, which is really efficient and carries out an ever larger activity throughout the Territory of Somaliland, should be represented by a single member in the Territorial Council, whereas there are parties which, have more than one representative, although they have a smaller number of branches and are practically inefficient and inactive.

Moreover, I have to remark that the criterion adopted strikes my party also from the point of view of morale, since I publicly declared, in the said meeting of 4 September that unless paragraph 3 of the Reform Plan was amended with a more logical and fair criterion, the party "Union of Africani" would leave the Territorial Council. The solution might be found to-day only in the following ways:

1. to take no part in the new formation of the Territorial Council, thus excluding the co-operation of a large portion of the population from the making of the new State;
2. to take part and accept a condition of inferiority in respect of the other parties.

Therefore, since the compilation of lists of representatives of the various political parties which are to take part in the 1952 session of the Territorial Council is imminent, I, the undersigned, beg to ask the honourable Advisory Council to lend their support with the Administration so that to the party, "Union of Africani in Somaliland" will be allotted the other seat, to which, in my opinion, it is entitled.

Trusting in your kind and prompt intervention, I thank you in advance and tender my kindest regards.

THE POLITICAL SECRETARY GENERAL OF

U.A.S.

(Mohamed Sceek Osman)

(signed) M.S. Osman
