

UNITED NATIONS



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PETITION FROM THE "UNIONE AFRICANI-SOMALIA", BRANCH OF BALAD  
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 Africani-Somalia", Branch of Balad 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.

THE UNION OF AFRICAN PEOPLE (SOMALILAND)  
- Balad Branch -

Balad, 1 October 1951

MEMORANDUM TO THE UNITED NATIONS VISITING MISSION TO  
SOMALILAND, FROM THE UNION OF THE AFRICAN PEOPLE IN SOMALILAND.

This party -- now independent of the Conference of Somaliland (Party) -- has no objections to raise against the activities of the Italian Administering Authority since its installation in the territory.

There is no need for us to stress the improvement in the standard of living, security, better schools and cultural organizations and the founding of several new democratic organs for the purpose of allowing the people of Somaliland to have a greater share in the political life of their country. The United Nations Visiting Mission will be fully able to see this for themselves.

We should like, however, to call the attention of the United Nations to a situation that we find reprehensible.

Upon assuming office, the Italian Administering Authority took over the bureaucratic system established by the British.

The latter had based their policy on a political party which had an anti-Italian bias and an extremist nationalist programme. To carry out their policy, the British had seen to it that at least 95 per cent of those employed by the Administration and of the Police were people belonging to the only pro-British Party.

The Italian Administering Authority has been willing to maintain this situation, which we, for our part, find quite intolerable.

We have always championed the equality of all Somali people in the Administration. We ourselves have asked that there should be no recriminations nor any political discrimination upon Italy's return to Somaliland as Administering Authority on behalf of the United Nations.

/We cannot

We cannot therefore tolerate the fact that the Administration still maintains those principles of discrimination against us adopted by the British, whereby scarcely 5 per cent of the work available in the Administration is left open to members of our Party, who, above all things, constitute the true and absolute majority of the Somali people.

Signed: Yusuf Ali  
POLITICAL SECRETARY GENERAL

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