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GENERAL

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PETITION FROM THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE OGADEH TRIBES
CONCERNING SOMALILAND UNDER ITALIAN ADMINISTRATION

Note by the Secretary-General: In accordance with rule 84 and supplemental 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 21 September 1951 from the Representatives of the Ogaden Tribes 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.

Mogadiscio, 21st September 1951

To:

THE PRESIDENT

THE U.N. TRUSTEESHIP COUNCIL'S

VISITING MISSION FOR SOMALILAND,

MOGADISHU

Sir,

Following our conversation with your honour of yesterday, we the undersigned representatives of the Ogaden tribes, in the name of our tribesmen totaling 1,500,000 persons and dwelling in the whole territory of the Ogaden province - actually under the tyrannical subjugation of the Ethiopian Government, beg to state what follows:

We, the representatives of the tribes of the Ogaden, herewith declare on behalf of our people, that we desire to join our Somali brothers and to share their future lot, under the Italian Trusteeship Administration for ten years, in accordance with U.N. decisions.

We, the representatives of the tribes of the Ogaden, further hereby declare to you, Sir, that between the Chiefs, Sultans, Akils, Notables, Sheikhs and the Ethiopian Government there has never been any relation. The Ethiopian Government has never had any authority over our people, and never did any colonisation work in our Country, since the beginning of her occupation up to date. Since the beginning, our relations have been those of two enemy tribes, raiding and robbing each other. The Ethiopian Government left no marks of its occupation in our Territory, such as mosques, hospitals, schools, as nothing has been built and nothing has been done; between the people of Ogaden Tribes and Ethiopia there has never been any connexion link, such as language, religion or customs. We belong to two different Countries and to two different races.

We beg to draw your kind attention and that of the United Nations Organization on some of the tyrannical actions, oppressions, overbearing acts, which have been recently the unfortunate lot of the Ogaden people.

Prior to the Ethiopian occupation, and exactly at the time of the British Administration, our Country was properly organized; there were schools,

/hospitals,

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hospitals, mosques, built by Italians, many other buildings and works, which clearly show the monumental civilization work done by the Italian Government during the prosperous times when it ruled over our Country. All these are now in ruins.

The Ogaden people's religion is Islamism, and the Abyssinians being Coptics are the worst enemies of our religion. One may be certain that, were the present system to last much longer Islamic religion will be wiped out. Ethiopian Authorities forbid the reading of Arabic; we are not even allowed to read our Holy Book, the Khoran. It is clear that the intention of Ethiopia is to utterly destroy Islamism. We may add that our people are continually exposed to robberies of all kinds; our men brutally murdered; our exponents, Chiefs, Headmen, Notables, Khadis, Sheiks are in part languishing in Ethiopian prisons, and in part fugitive from their Country, voluntary exiles in foreign lands. The few remaining one are doomed to total destruction.

In August last, the Ethiopian forces raided and robbed livestock at Imei. 50 elements, being the owners of the looted livestock, attempted to make claims against this raid, but they were machine gunned by the Ethiopian forces. In Jigjiga, our people are being severely ill treated by the Ethiopian Authorities just because the Ethiopian Government wants to confiscate grains and livestock. Some incursion have already been notified between our subjected people and the Ethiopian forces.

Our unfortunate Country has been deprived of all her outstanding people; the population numbering, as stated above, 1,500,000 is now without a ruling class of their own race; the Country can no longer be considered a living-place one. People are being cruelly, in an unbelievable inhuman manner punished for the slightest offence, very often without no reason at all. Have we no right to live in peace and tranquility, in this civilisation era? Have we no right to freedom, like other peoples, in these democratic times? Are we to be prevented from enjoying human rights, like other human beings? If so, the United Nations Organisation might just as well declare that the people of the Ogaden are not to belong to the human race, and have no right to protection

/May

May be allowed to state that, although the boundaries of the Trust Territory of Somaliland with Somaliland Protectorate and Kenya are delimited, there never existed an international boundary demarcation between Somaliland and Ethiopia.

The provisional boundary which presently separate Somaliland from the Ogaden Province is completely artificial. It was made in 1949 by the British and Ethiopian Governments without the knowledge and approval of our people and it conforms neither to geographic nor to racial conditions. This provisional boundary has enabled the Ethiopian to subjugate the population of the Ogaden Province, by oppression and tyrannical subjugation.

In view of the above circumstances, we the representatives of the people of the Ogaden Tribes, request the General Assembly of the United Nations to adopt a resolution incorporating our Country to the Trust Territory of Somaliland; the reasons being:

(a) that the actual boundary separating the Territory in question from Trust Somaliland is artificial and conforms neither to geographic nor to racial conditions;

(b) that together with the other Somaliland, the Ogaden province forms an ethnic and geographic entity;

(c) That the inhabitants of the Ogaden Province are Somalis;

(d) that by race and religion there is a vast difference between the Coptic Ethiopians and the Muslim Somalis;

(e) that this stretch of Territory was for generations a source of trouble between Somali and Ethiopians and that the rule of the latter was nominal and consisted in incursions or armed raids on racial and religious grounds;

(f) that up to the present date there is no sign, whatsoever, of settled Ethiopian Administration, such as schools, hospitals, roads, buildings etc.; and

(g) that the Somalis of the Ogaden Province desire to break off connections with Ethiopia under whose rule they are sure they will remain in perpetual slavery and wish to join with their Somali brothers of the Trust Territory of Somaliland.

/We

We implore you, Sir, to consider our sorry plight; the United Nations Organization is the only International Body who can come to our aid, in accordance with the fundamental principles preached, i.e. abolition of colonialism and serfdom all the world over. You fought Nazism and Fascism in order to free the world from oppression, injustices and corruption, and to grant freedom and justice to everybody. We beseech you to consider carefully our deplorable situation, and do please see that justice be done for us, because under the Ethiopian rule, we would neither have freedom nor justice.

We stated the major points regarding our Country in this petition, and do trust that our complaints will be taken into consideration, and fervently hope that your valuable intervention will obtain for us the expected and hoped for results.

We tender our best thanks in advance, and beg to remain, Sir,

Your most obedient servants.

Representatives of the Ogasden Tribes:

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|----------|-----|-----------------------|
| (Signed) | 1. | UGAZ HASSAN DI'IS |
| " | 2. | UGAZ MOHAMED SIGALE |
| " | 3. | UGAZ HASSAN SHEIKH |
| " | 4. | AHMED UGAZ MOHAMED |
| " | 5. | ALI YASSIN, Chief |
| " | 6. | ABDI SCIUKRI MOHAMED |
| " | 7. | SHEIKH ABDULIAHI ABDI |
| " | 8. | AHMED MAHDI BARCADIE |
| " | 9. | ABDI SUITAN OLOL |
| " | 10. | MUSSA HASSAN SHEIKH |
| " | 11. | BADIL DAAR |
| " | 12. | ABDULIAHI EIABE |
