

UNITED NATIONS  
TRUSTEESHIP  
COUNCIL



GENERAL

T/PET.11/40

3 May 1951

ENGLISH

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH/  
ITALIAN

PETITION FROM THE SOMALI YOUTH LEAGUE (CENTRAL COMMITTEE)  
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 14 April 1951 from the Somali Youth League, (Central Committee) concerning the Trust Territory for 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.

Copy

SYL (Somali Youth League)  
Head Office: Mogadishu (Somaliland)

P.O. Box N.352  
Telegraphic Address: SYLMOG

Mogadishu, 14th April 1951.

To: The Trusteeship Council,  
The United Nations,  
New York.

Through:

The UN Advisory Council for the  
Trust Territory of Somaliland  
under Italian administration,  
Mogadishu.

In accordance with Art.87(b) of the Charter of the United Nations and in view of the imminent meeting of the U.N. Trusteeship Council at New York in July of this year, we, the Central Committee of the Somali Youth League in the name of our Association and on behalf of the overwhelming majority of the Somalis, beg to submit the following report together with the attached documents setting forth a clear picture of the present situation of Somaliland under Italian Administration.

It will be seen that some of the attached documents consist of protests to the Administering Authority. These protests had no luck of success and remained unconsidered. This is due, we believe, to the fact of the U.N. General Assembly failing to take into consideration the preceeding protests against the Italian Administration, which fact encouraged the latter to redouble persecution and discrimination against its political opponents.

#### EDUCATION.

The Italian Administration has, in several occasions, expressed that 4,000,000 So. has been allocated for public education. This sum, except a little portion, is spent on Italian teachers and Italian children as well as on an exaggerated number of unnecessary Italian staff. The Italian teachers, on whom a large portion of the vote under this head of expenditure is spent, have no teaching qualifications and are composed of administrative officials and military officers and soldiers.

/There is

There is as yet no school programme and even the recently opened and over-praised Administrative-Political-School lacks proper programme and proper teachers with no teaching books at all. The same applies for the so-called technical school.

As regards the Arabic teaching, there were no arabic schools during the past 60 years of Italian Administration, therefore the Somalis are not to be blamed if they have not presently qualified Arabic teachers. As a matter of fact, the few Arabic teachers who have themselves studied as far as elementary school during the British occupation, have been given strong orders to teach the pupils only elementary Arabic. When interviewed on the subject the Chief Administrator made no mystery that the Administration had no intention to import qualified arabic teachers from Egypt and other Moslem countries.

Further, the Italian Administration appears to ignore completely the unanimous expression of the population - followed by the adopted resolution of the Territorial Council - to make the Arabic as the national language of the Territory. So also the provision of Art. 4 of the Trusteeship Agreement in which it is laid down that the Administering Authority must establish a sound and effective system of education with due regard for islamic culture and religion. In other words, the whole thing seems to be a well organized programme tending to convert and italianize the Somalis.

#### ECONOMIC.

Many articles - especially Arts.3 and 14 - of the Trusteeship Agreement bind the Administering Authority to promote the economic advancement of the indigenous population and to safeguard their present and future interests. The Italian Administration has not only failed to comply with this provision, but tried its best to irradicate the few Somali trading companies. In fact, almost all Somali transport and trading companies have already closed-up for lack of business and the only Somali-man, who owned a workshop, has sold it to an Italian-man for the same reason.

The trade activity has decreased to its lowest stage. The Trade Department grants no import or export licence except and only from and to Italy and such licences are exclusively obtainable for non-Somali-merchants.

There have been cases involving land alienations and building lands outside Mogadiscio without the knowledge and consent of the Territorial Council and

/without the

without the Administering Authority making any attempt to prohibit such land alienations and building lands.

To give an example, the Italians: Buffo, Adaglio, Valenzano, Angeleri, De Buffalo and many others have alienated lands at Genale and Afgoi belonging to Somalis, who, on complaining the matter to the Italian authorities, have been arrested, imprisoned and sentenced for 3 months imprisonment (Ibrahim Bilò, Giama Dere, Hagi Nur, Mohamed Abdi Sciari, Mohamed Ma'awiye - to name some).

Land exploitation is beyond exaggeration. All fertile lands are completely in the hands of the Italian farmers who plant banana, cotton, walnut, etc. for export purposes.

The Somalis are kept out from all cultivable lands and they are compelled to concentrate their agriculture on barren lands where irrigation is impossible due to the distance from the rivers. These Somali farmers have been given orders not to cultivate maize, millet and other vital foodstuffs, but only cotton. This to enrich the Italian cotton importers to whom the poor Somalis sale their cotton product at very low prices.

The Italian Administration shows no sign to encourage the introduction of modern and rational scheme in native farming and cattle breeding, nor any credit or financial facilities have been provided for the Somali trading companies.

#### SOCIAL WELFARE.

It is not known whether or not the Italian arbitrary deviation from the obligations in Art.3 of the Trusteeship Agreement is due to a mere misinterpretation. Fact is, however, that, far from promoting the social advancement of the inhabitants, the Italian Administration has frustrated all the good provisions that the United Nations had carefully elaborated for the social welfare of this trust Territory. There is no protection or fundamental freedom and thousands of C.I.D. men have been employed with the intention to hinder free expression. No adequate health and hospital services and no control of dangerous drugs and spiritual liquors. All adherents of the so-called "Conferenza" - amongst whom many professional delinquents - have been issued with arms and ammunitions by the Italian Administration, probably to assassinate the exponents of the national movement.

With regard to adequate remuneration for the native workers, the Italian Administration has, immediately on its arrival, made a new regulation for the locally engaged Italians which highly ameliorated their condition of pay and term  
/of service,

of service, whereas there was one regulation for all locally engaged staff without distinction of colour and race. To give an example of the great distinction in economical treatment between Somalis and Italians of same capacity and work, suffice it to say that an infant Italian girl is getting a monthly salary of over the 100 so. for the same work which is done by a Somali man who gets only So.150.

No sign of somalization of the Administration and no responsibility, whatsoever, is entrusted to the Somalis in the Administration of their country. The Somalis are continuously discharged and dismissed from service and replaced by Italians. It so happens now that all members of many Italian families - some numbering over the 10 persons - are government employees while no job is giving to the mass of the unemployed Somalis even if most of them can fulfil many of the vacancies which are given to the Italians who are abundantly imported from Italy with every ship and plane coming into Somalia.

The cost of living is incredibly high and prices have increased to 100%.

DISCRIMINATION, "DIVIDE AND RULE" AND LACK OF HUMAN RIGHTS.

The Italian Administration has accepted, as a standard of achievement for the Territory, the "Universal Declaration of Human Rights". Yet it is a routine matter today that the Somalis in general, and the SYL members and sympathisers in particular, are arrested by the Italian police, taken handcuffed to the police station where they undergo unhuman ill-treatments and are - in most of the cases - released after a detention of weeks or even months without being informed of the reason/s of their arrest.

In the last 10 years the Somalis - except a minority of few reactionary elements - have led a political reform of a somalization policy condemning the old and anti-national tribal system. In its practice of "divide and rule" the Italian Administration has, from the beginning, revived this destructive tradition and constrains the Somalis to state their original tribe imprisoning those who refuse this order even if they are members of associations - the SYL for example - whose statutes abolish tribalism.

There has been a complete purification of the chiefs and elders; the legally chosen ones have been replaced with pro-Italian elements despite the many protests of the respective tribes, while many others have been employed. This to obtain easy signatures whenever necessary.

/JUDICIAL.

#### JUDICIAL.

The Italian Penal Code is solely used in the courts of Somalia despite the terms of Art.7 of the Trusteeship Agreement "The Administering Authority shall have full powers of legislation, administration and jurisdiction in the Territory, subject to the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations, of this Agreement and of the annex attached hereto and shall have power to apply to the Territory, TEMPORARILY and with such MODIFICATIONS as are considered necessary, such Italian laws as are appropriate to the CONDITIONS and NEEDS of the Territory and as are not INCOMPATIBLE with the ATTAINMENT of its INDEPENDENCE".

The judiciary is at the complete dependency of the Italian Administration and police. This is, it is felt, contrary to the provision of Art.7 of the Annex to the Trusteeship Agreement "The Administering Authority shall establish a judicial system and shall ensure the absolute independence of the judiciary."

As proof of the Administration's political influence over the judiciary, we like to mention a judicial scandal which recently took place in Mogadishu court: the Galkayu Kadi and another well-known and well-respected Shiekh, who were months ago arrested in that centre - because of their national feelings - and were transferred to Mogadishu prisons for trial, have appeared before the judge.

They were addressed by the latter, some irrelevant questions to their case such as: "are you SYL members? Is it true that you have both opposed in the past the return of Italy in Somalia?" A loud protest of the public against this irregular court procedure was the answer. The public was expelled from the court and formal protests were made to both the Administering Authority and the U.N. Advisory Council.

SYL members have been sentenced for over 10 years imprisonment with nothing or framed-up charges, while murderers have been acquitted only because they were Italians or pro-italians.

#### DISTRICT COUNCILS AND TERRITORIAL COUNCIL.

The Italian Administration has formed District Councils as well as the Territorial Council provided for in Art.4 of the Annex to the Trusteeship Agreement.

Leaving out the minority representation, almost all members of these councils are illiterate pro-italian elements mostly disguised under the vests of tribal representatives and as such are in the complete impossibility to

/achieve the

achieve the important work of the said councils. They have not been chosen by public opinion but were appointed by the Italian Administration. This to secure two-thirds majority for land alienations and Somali citizenship to Italians likewise the Africanders in South Africa?

A CHALLENGE.

We invite the Trusteeship Council to send a commission (Art. 87 (c) of the Charter of the United Nations) or to advise the U.N. Advisory Council to investigate the veradicity of our report in which case we shall be glad to prove its correctness.

REQUESTS.

We request the Trusteeship Council:

- a) to use its influence so that all the present ruling officials of the so-called "Ministero Africa Italiana", composed of ex-fascit colonialists experienced in subjugating colonial people, be relieved and replaced with officials from the "Foreign Ministry";
- b) to substitute the fascist Italian laws at present in force in our country and the Italian judges with new modern islamic laws and islamic judges;
- c) to protect our country from the afflux of italian immigrations;
- d) to advise the Administering Authority to abolish tribalism and to provide the Somalis with a status of citezenship of their country (Art. 2 of the Annex to T.A.)
- e) to provide that no land concessions are made by the Administering Authority to aliens;
- f) to provide that young Somalis be sent outside the territory to received scound ed effective education with special due for Muslim culture and religion.

We hope that the August Trusteeship Council will give a careful and a kind consideration to our humble petition and will safeguard the interests and welfare of our people in confront of the Italian Administration.

We remain,  
Your Obedient Servants

MEMBERS OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE

1. (signed)  
HAJI MOHAMED HUSSEIN, President

2. (signed) A. Addawe  
AHMED ADDAWE HUSSEN, V/President

/3. (signed)

3. (signed) Farah Ali  
HAJI FARAH ALI, Ag. General Sec.
4. (signed) S. Issa Mohamed  
SHIEKH ISSA MOHAMED, Treasurer
5. (signed)  
SHIEKH MOHAMUD, Member
6. (signed) Dahir Haji  
DAHIR HAJI OSMAN, Member
7. (signed) M.Y. Adan  
MOHAMUD YUSUF ADAN, Member
8. (signed) M.A. Elmi  
MOHAMED AHMED, Member
9. (signed) Haji Omar ...  
HAJI OMAR SHEGOW, Member
10. (signed) Mohamed Ossoble Adde  
MOHAMED OSSOBLE ADDE, Member
11. (signed) Ali Hersi Farah  
ALI HERSI FARAH, Member
12. (signed)  
ALI MOHALLIM MOHAMUD, Member
13. (signed) Osman Shiekh ...  
OSMAN SHIEKH MAHAOW, Member
14. (signed) Hussen Shek  
HUSSEIN SHIEKH HASSAN, Member

Stamp: Somali Youth League - Secretariat - Mogadishu.

Received by the U.N. Advisory Council in Mogadishu, 16 April 1951.



Annex 1

Copy  
Translated from Italian

25 July 1950  
Ref. No. 2/G/47A

To H.E. Ambassador Formari,  
Chief Administrator of Somalia,  
Mogadiscio.

Your Excellency,

We wish to express our deep and sincere gratitude for the general amnesty which Your Excellency has granted to all those imprisoned for political offences, in the Territory. At the same time, however, we feel compelled to call Your Excellency's attention to the following facts which have occurred during the last few days, particularly in the Juba Province, where despite Your Excellency's promises, tension has again arisen to the disadvantage of our party.

A telegram from the chairman of our local branch in Lugh, informs us that all records of that branch have been impounded by the Resident. A copy of the telegram is attached for your information.

At 8 p.m. on 20 inst. our Branch Office in Baidoa, was looted by a gang of ruffians, in the presence of the commandant of the local police station and that of a warrant officer of the police, name Cartuccio. We are informed that the police officer, has removed all Askari guards from that area, on that night, in order to facilitate the raid. The next day, our office was occupied by Hisbia, with the authorization of the police. Some of our members who had been granted the benefit of the amnesty, were expelled to other places, as indicated below.

1. Hagi Abdulahi Fiigou was expelled to Dolo
2. Elmi Dolab to Dolo
3. Amin Aliou to Tieglo
4. Abdurahman to Dolo
5. Abdi Hassan to Hoddur
6. Mohamed Omar to Belet Uen
7. Osran Carié to Dinsor

/In

In several other centres of the Upper Juba Province, particularly in the Bardera District, our offices were occupied by the Hisbia with the help of the officer in charge of the Bardera police station. In these places our members are compelled by torture and beatings to join the Hisbia Association of Dighil and Mirifle (who are tools employed by Provincial Commissioner Copasso and the Residents). We also receive daily messages which give us the impression that Dr. Benardelli's trip through the Upper Juba has had the direct effect of increasing the tension and encouraging the evil doers who, supported and counselled by Commissioner Copasso, are resolved to provoke new incidents, if the refugees return to Baidoa.

Your Excellency, although we have full confidence in your own activities, we are convinced that there is some one in your administration, who has a reason for underacting the efforts which Your Excellency is making with patience and impartiality, and is desirous of doing so to our disadvantage. To be frank, we believe that this "somebody" is precisely Dr. Benardelli with his clique.

The public security of this Territory, is very much disturbed at the moment, especially as regards the Somali population. In the Mudugh, as Your Excellency is aware, hundreds of persons have died and thousands of animals have been stolen. This will naturally be the cause that hundreds of families will be dispersed; in the Village Duca degli Abruzzi district, about 30 persons were killed as a result of a clash between Abdalla Arone and Caballe (both Abgal); at El Bur, 15 members of the Abgal Uaceke and Murosada were killed; in the Mogadiscio area 10 members of the Matten and Yusuf (both Abgal) tribes lost about their lives. In the Upper Juba province, raiding and looting on a large scale by evil-doers took place at the instigation of interested parties. In the course of which many persons were killed.

It appears that no action was taken (by the authorities) and no mention of the incidents appeared in the local press, in any of the above cases. This gives us the impression that the Administration, which Dr. Benardelli represents in his capacity of Director of Political Affaires cares but little for the concerns of the Somalis and to what happens to them.

/To

To return to the incidents of Baidoa - these constitute a problem for which no easy solution can be found, since hundreds of families are now completely destitute and roaming about the streets in town, living on whatever alms they may be fortunate in getting, and which too many cannot even obtain. Apart from the legal measures that should or that will be taken, we feel that it would have been humane at least, to grant these miserable people some sort of subsistence allowance. When Your Excellency was dealing with this matter, you had instructed Dr. Benardelli to find an early solution to the question. Dr. Benardelli had informed some of the refugees representatives, that they would be returned in several batches, and that the last batch would be of 28 persons, all merchants and holders of public licenses. As regards compensation for the losses the refugees had incurred, Dr. Benardelli had informed the refugees that the Government could do nothing and that they would have to have recourse to civil action in court, themselves. Apart from the fact that the Administration is responsible for the maintenance of law and order in the Territory, we beg to state, for your information, that in the course of the various interviews we have had with Dr. Benardelli, he had given us the assurance that the Administration would, in some way, compensate the damages sustained, and punish the guilty.

This attitude, which Dr. Benardelli has now adopted, causes great concern to the persons concerned and is a source of considerable surprise to us.

Your Excellency, it seems extraordinary, that an incident which has caused hundreds of families to lose their homes and all they possessed, should be settled in such a simple manner, as if it was an ordinary business matter, just by advising those who have suffered losses to go to a civil court and institute legal proceedings. If this is the manner in which we have to proceed, we should like to ask Your Excellency, who are the persons against whom action is to be taken, and what proof we can submit, since the looting and pillaging took place when these poor persons were in prison.

We are informed that Dr. Benardelli has pledged his word to Sheik Abdullahi Beghedi (President of the Hisbia Dighil Mirifle - HDM) that the refugees would not be allowed to return to Baidoa and that our branch there, would not be allowed to function again.

If however superior orders were to nullify his pledged word, he had come to an agreement with Provincial Commissioner Copasso, that the returning refugees would not be allowed to take up commercial occupations and would be refused employment. It should be mentioned, at the same time that the looting and pillaging of these poor people's homes and shops, took place under the eyes of those who represent the Administration (Provincial Commissioner Copasso, the Resident and the police), who have the responsibility of maintaining law and order, and that it is to them that the poor refugees will have to apply if they return to Baidoa, to get justice.

This may appear difficult to believe, but it is the truth and we are prepared to prove it at the proper time.

Your Excellency, other regrettable events, similar to those we have just described, continue to take place, as they did last month. Without fear of being taxed with exaggeration, we say that these massacres are due to the policy of division and imperialism, carried out by Dr. Benardelli and his clique, who have not forgotten and will never forget the old methods used during the fascist regime which was "divide to reign" and in which he claims to have played such an important part. This bad policy, which Dr. Benardelli has adopted, has been the cause that a considerable number of young Somalis, mostly possessing a fair education and who had lost faith in the Italian administration were compelled to emigrate to neighbouring countries.

Another factor of considerable importance, is the despatch of agents by Dr. Benardelli, all over the Territory. We do not know who is paying for these or what are their instructions, but wherever they go, they create trouble among the population and foment disagreement and incidents.

We feel, Your Excellency, that despite all your efforts and good intentions, that your task is made more difficult by the presence of so many officials of the old fascist regime, whose temperament will not allow adjustment to present conditions and new circumstances. You will not be allowed to know what is the real position, especially as we are concerned, for we will probably be imprisoned like thousand of our members have been during the last month, on the pretence of maintaining law and order, but really as a retaliatory measure.

/In order

In order to restore the situation to normal and eliminate the possibility of these events recurring, we have the honour to submit to Your Excellency the following proposals:

1. Restore peace and order in the Territory, which as we have mentioned above are at present seriously impaired;
2. Return all refugees to Baidoa, together and not in batches as has been suggested by Dr. Benardelli. At the same time take energetic steps to recover the looted property.
3. Remove various officials, such as Dr. Benardelli, Copasso and others, who are responsible for the chaos prevailing in the Territory at present and who, in our opinion, will always be a constant obstacle in the path of our progress.
4. Restore those who have had the benefit of the amnesty which Your Excellency has granted, to their employment in the Administration, as well as those who were discharged because they were members of our Association.
5. In order to establish direct contact with the population of the Territory and to get a true picture of their needs and aspirations, grant periodical interviews, say once a week.

We also wish to draw your attention to the fact that among the Assessors to the Assize Court, recently appointed, there was not one who belonged to our association. We are unaware of the qualifications needed for those appointments, but one thing is certain, that the majority of those appointed are illiterate and could not fulfil the conditions required for such an important and delicate post.

Your Excellency, this you must believe; we have no desire to impede the smooth operation of your administration and we are willing to prove it. On the other hand, we cannot remain mute when we are faced with the obvious hatred of certain officials, or violation and contempt of the articles of the Trusteeship Agreement, as well as of the Rights of Man.

We hope that this letter will not remain unanswered as all those that we addressed to the Administration and we feel sure that Your Excellency will give your kind consideration to our case.

We address to Your Excellency the expression of our respect

(signed) illegible  
Chairman

P.S. We have just received a telegram from Kismayu, in which we are informed that our members who have been released from prison, expect to be expelled on a banishment warrant. A copy of the telegram is attached for your information.

Note by the Secretariat:

This annex is not reproduced in this document since it is identical with the text of document T/PET.11/14.

Annex 3

Copy  
Translated from Italian

Mogadiscio, 13 September 1950.

To H.E. Ambassador Fornari,  
Chief Administrator of Somaliland,  
Mogadiscio.

cc: The United Nations Advisory Council,  
Mogadiscio.

Subject: Complaint.

With reference to the steps which Your Excellency proposes to take, in regard to incidents which have taken place to the detriment of members of our association, we take the liberty to submit this further complaint with reference to new incidents which have taken place in the various parts of the Territory.

The sad incidents of Baidoa are sufficiently well known to you and there is no need to explain them again. We shall therefore only mention those which are related to the return of the refugees to their homes.

Following the repeated advice of Your Excellency and that of the officials of the Department of Interior, and despite the fact that we were aware that the position in Baidoa had not improved in any way, we sent the following persons to Baidoa on 21 August, in order that they might be in a position to ascertain the facts on the spot and explain them to Your Excellency:

1. Mahamud Omar
2. Omar Badulla
3. Aden Hassan
4. Elmi Farah
5. Mohamed Iusuf (a member of our Central Committee).

The party had a letter from the Department of Internal Affairs and also an escort of two askaris.

When they arrived at their destination they went to the office of the Resident and delivered the letter in question. After reading the letter, the Resident stated very definitely, that he could not guarantee their protection in any way. Following this reply, they started on their return journey, and while they were looking for a means of returning to Mogadiscio, they were attacked and manhandled by a band of gangsters. Mahamud Omar was severely wounded in the head and in the left arm. Omar Abdulla was slightly wounded but he was robbed

/of a thousand

of a thousand Somalos which had been entrusted to him by the Somali Haji Osman Aden, to be given to his brother Haji Mussa Aden, who was in Baidoa. The others escaped injury by running away.

Our Committee member, Mohamed Yusuf, has already given a detailed account of the incident to Your Excellency, and reported how the aggression took place at a distance of less than 10 metres from the office of the Resident.

The above-mentioned party returned to Mogadiscio on 2 September without having concluded anything, and without any measures having been taken against the assailants. Two persons who had been identified by the prison guard Chekdon, and by Omar Abdullah (one of the party attacked) as having taken part in the assault, were arrested and immediately released. These were Ahmed Gabuen and Shiaku.

On 3 September, a motor bus left Mogadiscio for Lugh. In it were several members of our League. The bus having broken down, the passengers were compelled to make their way on foot. Three of our members who were aware of the situation, went to the warrant officer in charge of the police station to ask for protection during the few hours which would be necessary to repair the break down. They had hardly left the office that they were attacked by the usual group. Two of them Ali Omar Abdullah Shil and Ahmed Omar Abdullah Shil were severely wounded. Both had to be taken to the Baidoa hospital. It appears that one of them is still in a critical condition. Just as the previous case, no arrests were made after the incident (at least up to the last few days), and no steps were taken to recover the stolen 1,000 Somalos.

Other attacks were made against our offices at Gardo, Galcaio, Bender Kassim about which telegrams were sent direct to Your Excellency by those who had been affected. As usual no arrests were made following the incidents although the assailants were well known persons and easy to identify and find.

To all enquiries made to the Resident on duty, he answered: "Remember 11 January 1948".

As regards the Commissioner of Bender Kassim, Your Excellency will have no doubt been able to establish, as is stated in the letter dated 8 inst. from our local branch there, that the impulsiveness of the Resident had led him to take the law into his own hands. At Garoe 18 of our members were arrested for wearing unauthorized uniforms and detained for about a month (telegram of 18 August sent to Your Excellency by those concerned).

/Our offices



Our offices at Dinsor were set on fire, and despite our complaints and the fact that the sworn testimony of witnesses before the Kadi, had given clear indications in regard to the perpetrators of the crime, no one was arrested.

We may add that it has become dangerous for anyone belonging to our Party, to pass through Lugh, Bardera, Oddur and Dolo. Every car stopping there is immediately surrounded by that group of gangsters who exert real control with the only object of molesting and robbing our members.

The above statement has not been inspired by hearsay or insinuations, but is based on definite facts, some of which happened the day before your arrival in Baidoa.

We beg that Your Excellency may put an end to these incidents and to the overt hostility which is manifest against our members.

Two of our members Sheik Haji Mohamed Abdurahman and Kassar Abdi have been in hospital with severe injuries sustained during the assault on our offices in Gardo.

We feel confident that Your Excellency will give his kind attention to our request, and we beg to express our most cordial greetings.

(signed) Haji Mohamed Hussein,  
Chairman.

Annex 4

Copy  
Translated from Italian

SYL Somali Youth League  
Head Office, Mogadishu

Mogadiscio, 12 December 1950.

SUBJECT: Constitution of the Territorial Council.  
TO: H.E. The Chief Administrator of Somalia,  
Mogadiscio.  
cc: The United Nations Advisory Council,  
Mogadiscio.

Excellency,

With reference to letter No.114842, dated 30 November, from the Office for Internal Affairs, by which we were informed that our Party had been allotted three seats on the Territorial Council, we, Central Committee of the Somali Youth League, in the name and on behalf of our association, take the liberty of forwarding to Your Excellency our protest against the method adopted for the allotment of seats as well as against the choice of the Council's members.

1. That due consideration has not been given to the overwhelming majority of our Party as compared with other political parties; a majority which was ascertained in January 1948 by the Four Powers Commission of Investigation, and which may be ascertained even now if necessary;

2. That what has been done is unfair: the "Conferenza" parties, supported and financed by AFIS (some of them exist in name only) cannot be allotted seats as representatives of tribes and at the same time as representatives of political parties. As proof of this, Islao Mahadalle, President of the "Conferenza" has been appointed representative of the Hawiya tribes on the Territorial Council; Salah Omar, President of the "Unione Nazione Somala" (one of the Conferenza's parties) has been appointed representative of the so-called Rer Hamar tribes (Mogadiscio); Sheikh Abdullahi Mohamed, President of the party Hisbia Dighil Mirifle, has been appointed on the Territorial Council, representative of the Dighil and Mirifle tribes of Mogadiscio. The same may happen for the remaining Conferenza's parties. Obviously, if the same method is maintained, they will get a double allotment of seats, since some of those parties

/bear

bear tribes' names, such as for example, Hisbia Dighil Mirifle, Bimalia, Abgalia, Scidle and Mobilen, and they might participate in the candidature of seats allotted to the respective tribes.

3. That, in addition to District Concils (consigli di residenza) already existing and formed, for the greatest part, in all residencies, with elements belonging to pro-Italian parties, the provincial councils (consigli regionali) were also recently constituted, wherefrom everywhere, except in one province, our party has been completely left out. At Villagio, at Bulu Burti, at Lugh, at El Bur, when our local party exponents raised their protests, the Residents replied that they had had precise instructions to select members of the Territorial Council only among the alleged tribes representatives - at Alula, where the Somali Progressive Party members, barely approximately fifteen members in the whole district, they were allotted all five seats of the District Council. At Merca, the five persons selected as District Counsellors, all belong to pro-Italian parties.

4. Four seats have been allotted to the Italian community, two seats to the Arab community and some more to the Indian and Pakistani communities. First of all, we believe that, according to article 4 of the Annex to the Trusteeship Agreement, foreigners should not be admitted to the Territorial Council. Even if one is prepared to admit such a possibility, however, we are of the opinion that the number of seats allotted to them is excessive, considering the scanty number of their members.

A further factor, which is, in our opinion, very important, is that many of the persons indicated as future counsellors are illiterate, and therefore unfit for the task they will have to discharge. Undoubtedly, this is a fact that will help neither Administration's task nor the Somali people's evolution.

Trusting that Your Excellency will take into benevolent consideration the foregoing, we beg to remain ....

1. (signed)  
HAGI MOHAMED HUSSEIN, President

3. (signed) H. Farah Ali  
HAGI FARAH ALI, Secretary

5. (signed)  
SCEK MOHAMUD MOHAMED, Member

7.  
MOHAMED OSSOBLE ADDE, Member

2. (signed) A. Addawe  
AHMED ADDAWE HUSSEN V.Pres.

4. (signed) S. Issa Mohamed  
SCEK ISSA MOHAMED, Treasurer

6. (signed) Hagi Omar Scego  
HAGI OMAR SCEGO, Member

8. (signed) Dahir Hagi Osman  
DAHIR HAGI OSMAN, Member

/9. (signed)

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| 9. (signed) A.H. Farah<br>ALI HERZI FARAH, MEMBER          | 10. (signed)<br>ALI MCAILLIM MOHAMUD, Member         |
| 11. (signed) Hussein Sceek<br>HUSSEIN SCEEK HASSAN, MEMBER | 12. (signed) Osman S. Mao<br>OSMAN SCEEK MAO, Member |
| 13. (signed) M.A. Elmi<br>MOHAMED AHMED EIMI, Member       | 14. (signed) M.Y. Adan<br>MOHAMUD YUSUF ADAN, Member |

5. That the party Hamar Youth Club, which is superior to many others, both by number of members and influence, has been left out in the allotment of seats on the Territorial Council. When they raised a protest, they were told that they might make an agreement with the SYL for a division of seats allotted to the latter.

We beg to point out that between the two parties, there is only an identity of political ideas, and nothing else.

We realize that, according to article 4 of the Annex to the Trusteeship Agreement, the appointment of members of the Territorial Council is optional, or rather is strictly within Your Excellency's competence, although in order to do the population a favour, Your Excellency deemed it advisable to hear also the opinion of the Advisory Council and that of the political parties.

We have been informed from Bender Kassim that the following persons were chosen as representatives on the Territorial Council of that Province; all of them belong to the party "Lega P.S." (one of the Conferenza's parties):

1. Bogor Musa Iusuf Bogor
2. Calid Iusuf Bogor
3. Abdi Hagi Yusuf
4. Mohamed Musa
5. Arsce Au Musa
6. Ismail Hagi Iusuf

We may point out that the Progressive Somali League contrary to what is being affirmed by some AFIS' officials, represents an insignificant minority in the Territory. Therefore, we think that the choice made by the Provincial Commissioner is unfair and unjustified, also from the representative point of view of tribes, since the first five above-mentioned persons belong to the Osman Mahamud tribe, which undoubtedly, cannot represent the whole of the Mijertein population.

/At Bardera,

At Bardera, the Resident stated that political parties were absolutely not admitted to the Council. Nevertheless in spite of his own statement, he included two members of the HDM party.

SYL  
Somali Youth League

Annex 5

COPY

We recommend the introduction of the Arabic language as the national language of Somalia on the following grounds:-

1. The Arabic language is uniform and is understood in all Moslem countries, the Somali language, on the other hand, is not uniform and consists of various dialects. From a questionnaire recently conducted by our Secretaries all over Somalia, we discovered that there is no general agreement amongst Somalis, as to which one of the various dialects should become the national language. The people of each province or area insisted that their dialect should be made the national language. When they were asked, however, if they had any objection to the introduction of the Arabic language as the national language, they expressed that they had no objection whatsoever.
2. The Arabic language is very highly developed and is rich in its vocabulary and literature. The Somali language, on the other hand, is undeveloped and as such has a very limited vocabulary with no literature at all. It is extremely difficult to express oneself adequately enough in the Somali language.
3. The Arabic language is a growing vital language. It is already highly developed and is expanding from day to day. The Somali language, on the other hand cannot be easily developed. It is difficult, if not impossible, for the Somalis to improve their language at the present time. Such improvement or development would require time and education and would involve perhaps a few centuries. Since the Somali people are backward and the job of developing the Somali language is a gigantic task, requiring the attention of highly educated and cultured men, such an attempt would be futile. And if the Somalis in their present condition cannot develop their language, it is also difficult to see how foreigners could tackle the problem in the course of a few years.
4. The Arabic language is "international" we might very well say. It is read and spoken all over the Moslem world including the Somaliland. The Somali language, on the other hand, is narrow and confined to the Somali, peoples

/inhabiting

inhabiting the 'horn of Africa'. In learning the Arabic language perfectly the Somalis would embark on an Ocean of culture which knows no limits.

5. The Arabic language is already widely used in Somalia since the Somalis are all Moslems. The Holy Koran, written in Arabic, is taught to all Somali children from their tender years; the Somali say their prayers in Arabic; the Somali judges record all evidence and proceedings before them in Arabic; documents, private papers and letters are all written in Arabic. Thus already by an unconscious process by the very fact that Somalis are Moslem, the "Lingua franca" of Somalia is Arabic.

6. The Arabic language is necessary for linking together Somalia with that Moslem countries culturally and politically. There is a union of thought and feeling between all Moslems all over the world; and the Arabic language helps to foster and strengthen the bonds between Moslem brothers who are all believers in ALIAH, HIS HOLY Prophet MOHAMED, and in the Holy Koran.

Signed by the Central Committee

HAGI MOHAMED HUSSEN, President  
AHMED ADDAWE HUSSEN, Vice Pres.  
HAGI FARAH ALI, Secretary  
SHEIK ISSA MOHAMED, Treasurer  
SHEIK MOHAMUD, Member  
DAHIR HAGI OSMAN, Member  
MOHAMUD YUSUF ADAN, Member

HAGI OMAR SHEGOW, Member  
ALI HERZI FARAH, Member  
OSMAN SHEIK MAO, Member  
MOHAMMED AHMED, Member  
MOHAMED OSSOBIE, Member  
ALI MCALLIM, Member  
HUSSEIN SHEIK HASSAN, Member

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