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PETITION FROM MR. ALI NUR ABUCAR AND OTHERS CONCERNING
SOMALILAND UNDER ITALIAN ADMINISTRATION

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the rules of procedure for the Trusteeship Council)

Note by the Secretariat: This communication was
transmitted to the Secretary-General by the United
Nations Advisory Council for the Trust Territory of
Somaliland under Italian administration.

To H.E. the Administrator of Somaliland - Mogadiscio

To the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs - Rome

To the United Nations Advisory Council - Mogadiscio

The undersigned, representing all the small shamba cultivators of the district of Merca and especially Bullo di Genale, Coriole, Faharana, Gaiverò, Sigale, Bombase, Goluin, etc., etc., are appealing to you in order to express their disappointment and great sorrow, and also to bring to your attention the discontent aroused by Ordinance No. 4 of 3 February 1956, which redivides the country into cotton districts, nowadays called zones and sub-zones, and obliges us to sell the product of our labour only to the colonialist enterprise in whose zone or sub-zone our cotton-growing shamba is situated.

We have fought for many years in order to win the freedom to be able to dispose of our harvest as we like, in order to obtain the best price and in order to be able to sell it freely to whomever we wish, as we are free to sell our grain, durra, camels, cows and asses, and we had succeeded in feeling really free in that respect because His Excellency Fornari, the first Administrator of Somaliland, had the civic courage of a good democrat and abolished the old feudal districts left over as a heritage of fascism.

Now you regroup us into zones and sub-zones, to work solely for the enterprise and turn us into beasts of colonialist production.

But the officials close to you may have misled you about the feelings of the Somalis, of the poor Somali shamba cultivators who, rather than give up the economic freedom to dispose freely of their harvests, would prefer to live in the direst poverty. Yet, our hearts tell us that such a law could not have come from you. It is a law drafted by the representatives of the large enterprises very assiduously supported by the Inspectorate of Agriculture and Animal Husbandry, which perhaps believes that the Somali economy consists entirely of the large enterprises and not of our hard and always badly remunerated work. Ordinance No. 4 is a colonialist law, which takes us back to economic slavery, and

WE APPEAL

to you to repeal it or to send it for long and careful examination to the only legislative body elected by the Somali people: the Legislative Assembly which has just been inaugurated.

Confident that our appeal will touch your heart, we have the honour to be, etc.

(Signed) Ali Nur Abucar
and others
