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PETITION FROM MR. HAGI DIRLE AND FIFTY-NINE OTHERS CONCERNING
SOMALILAND UNDER ITALIAN ADMINISTRATION

(Circulated in accordance with rule 85, paragraph 2 of the rules
of procedure of the Trusteeship Council)

Mogadishu, 4th July 1959.

The Chairman,
The United Nations Trusteeship Council,

NEW YORK

Sir,

We, the undersigned members of the Somali Youth League, wish to inform you that Ambassador Di Stefano, Chief Administrator of Somalia, has recently nominated a new Somali Government, formed exclusively on tribal basis and composed of incompetent elements numbering, besides the Prime Minister, ten ministers and five undersecretaries, while six more undersecretaries are to be appointed in the immediate future.

We wish to submit our strong protest, disapproval and condemnation to the tribal structure of such government, as well as the quality and quantity of its members, because:

- (a) the tribal character of the government in question represent great danger to our national unity and consequently to our independence;
- (b) the exaggerated number of ministers and undersecretaries, together with their personnel and office equipment, involves heavy expenditure certainly not justified by our service exigencies and however beyond the possibilities of our modest budget;

(c) more than 30 out of the 90 members of the Legislative Assembly have either university degree or diploma of higher schools. Therefore, the absence of qualified elements in the newly formed Somali Government can indeed find no justification, unless Ambassador Di Stefano intended to have a grateful government faithful to his anti-somali plans.

In facts, these very days, H.E. Di Stefano and the new government are corrupting people, with evident squandering of public money, in order to obtain signatures on some letters and telegrams in opposition to the various petitions from every part of the Territory, all protesting against the policy of Ambassador Di Stefano in general and specially the tribal structure and composition of the newly formed Somali Government.

The contropetitions sent yours by elements backed by the Chief Administrator and the Government indicate also the existence of a censorship on the private correspondence. If so, we are sure that many if not all the petitions similar to the present one will not reach to their destination.

We wonder whether the advice of the United Nations Advisory Council in Mogadishu has been sought by Ambassador Di Stefano before forming the new Somali Government, as provided by art. 8 with particular reference to the obligation of the Administering Authority to seek the advice of the Advisory Council regarding plans for the establishment and development of organs of self-government. We shall, therefore, be glad if same be ascertained.

We request the immediate intervention of the United Nations in this important matter, and shall be grateful if our petition be discussed and examined by the Trusteeship Council in its present session.

Yours faithfully,

(Signed by:) Hagi Dirie and 59 others
