



Distr.  
GENERAL

T/OBS.2/2  
20 October 1952

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

PETITIONS CONCERNING TANGANYIKA

Observations of the United Kingdom Government as Administering Authority

Note by the Secretariat: These observations refer to the following petitions:

1. Petition from Chief Shabani of Wilwana (T/PET.2/158)
2. Petition from Mr. Kibwana Chanzi (T/PET.2/160)

1. Petition from Chief Shabani of Wilwana (T/PET.2/158)

This petition takes the form of a copy of a letter addressed by the petitioner to the Private Secretary to the Governor of Tanganyika.

The petitioner was provisionally recognized in July, 1951, as Chief of the Wilwana area of the Singida District. He was informed that his confirmation in that office was dependent on the satisfactory discharge of his duties during a probationary period.

In May, 1952, the Provincial Commissioner, Central Province, reported that the petitioner had shown himself to be lacking in the qualities required of a chief and was habitually drinking to excess. The production of adequate local food crops is a matter of considerable importance to the maintenance of food supplies in the Wilwana area and the petitioner had failed to take any steps to see that measures for the improvement of agriculture were put into effect. Complaints regarding his conduct were made not only by the local representatives of Government departments but also by the other chiefs in the Singida District.

Repeated warnings were without effect and the provisional recognition accorded to the petitioner as Chief of the Wilwana area was therefore withdrawn.

Steps have since been taken for the setting up of a council for the Wilwana Chiefdom and in due course it is proposed to ask this council to consider the

selection of a new chief. In the meantime a "Wakili" has been appointed temporarily to carry out the executive functions of the Native Authority.

The petitioner has been fully informed of the position and of the reasons for the action taken. It has been made clear to him that the District Commissioner is not empowered either to appoint or to dismiss chiefs. The action taken by the District Commissioner was to suspend the petitioner pending the decision of the Government regarding withdrawal of recognition of him as chief.

In the circumstances the Administering Authority suggests the Trusteeship Council should decide that no action by it is called for on this petition..

2. Petition from Mr. Kibwana Chanzi (T/PET.2/150)

The petitioner is a man with an obsession. Nothing was known of him until about a year ago when he addressed a brief letter to the Governor of Tanganyika, "suggesting" that he should be recognized as Sultan of the Uzaramo District. Since then several communications have been received from him and he has been personally interviewed.

The actual writer of the various letters received is not known. The petitioner himself does not speak English. Neither from correspondence nor from personal interview has it been possible to substantiate in any way the petitioner's claim. As will be seen from the annexure to his present petition, he bases it on descent from a Sultan Pazi, who, he states, "ruled the whole of Tanganyika" in the far-off days before the Arab incursions into East Africa! As far as can be now ascertained active colonizations in East Africa by Arabs began some 1200 years ago.

The petitioner's claim is of such a fantastic nature that it has not been possible to give it serious consideration. In conversation the petitioner, a man of middle age, appeared to be quite rational, except to the extent that he was obsessed with his vision of an imaginary "Kingdom" of the Eastern Province. Asked whether the people of the Uzaramo District would support his claim and accept him as a chief he replied that he did not know. This was clearly an aspect of the matter which had not occurred to him, but he said that acceptance by the people was not the basis of his claim. He argued that it was up to the Government to recognize him as Sultan and to give him that status accordingly.

He had no reply to the question why he had not presented his claim earlier, and particularly at the time of the recent reorganization of the Uzaramo native administration.

In the circumstances the Administering Authority suggests that the Trusteeship Council might decide that no action by it is called for on this petition.

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