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GENERAL

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Dual Distribution

NEGOTIATION AND ADOPTION OF A DRAFT TRUSTEESHIP
AGREEMENT FOR ITALIAN SOMALILAND

Letter dated 1 March 1950 received by the
President of the Trusteeship Council from
the Permanent United Kingdom Representative
on the Trusteeship Council.

"On the 26th January I gave an undertaking on behalf of His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland that I would furnish the Trusteeship Council with information regarding the provisional line up to which His Majesty's Government proposed that the Italian Government should take over the administration of the Trust Territory of Somaliland.

"The details of this provisional line are set out in the enclosure to this letter. It has always been the hope of His Majesty's Government that the question of the provisional frontier between Ethiopia and the Trust Territory of Somaliland would be settled by direct and friendly agreement between the two parties principally concerned, namely Ethiopia and Italy as the Authority to which the administration of Somaliland has been entrusted. As members of the Council may be aware, the hopes of His Majesty's Government in this respect have not been fulfilled and they have therefore had no alternative but to make arrangements which, after full consideration, seem to them to represent the maximum degree of administrative convenience

for both parties which is practicable in all the circumstances. It must, however, be understood that this arrangement is a provisional one only and without prejudice to the final settlement of this question. I must inform you that the Italian and Ethiopian Governments have been informed of this arrangement by His Majesty's Government.

"It is the sincere hope of His Majesty's Government, who have been responsible for administering the Territory for the past nine years, that the provisional arrangements which they have been obliged to make will work to the satisfaction of the Italian and Ethiopian Administrations. His Majesty's Government also hope that, pending the final delimitation of the frontier, both parties will make every effort to maintain peace and tranquillity in the area.

"I should be grateful if you would arrange for copies of this letter and of the enclosure to be circulated to members of the Council.

(Signed) Alan Burns"

NOTE

"The proposed frontier line is the line shown upon British maps of 1946: East Africa: 1/500,000. GSGS 4355: sheets: NB 38/4, 3rd edition: NB 38/5, 3rd edition: NB 38/3, 2nd edition.

It is defined as follows:

From the inter-section of 48 degrees east longitude and of 8 degrees north latitude, thence south west to a point six kilometres to the south east of Gherou, thence 3 kilometres to the south of Balli Abdi Ali, thence between Dabarucine and Gheligir, thence to Ferfer leaving Ferfer to the Ethiopian Administration, thence to a locality designated as Casiagur, thence approximately due west between El Garasle and Dudum Har, thence between El Durrei and El Meghet to Bag Berde, leaving Bag Berde to the Ethiopian Administration, thence in a west-south-west direction to south of El Candar to

Bar Nohle, through Bar Udalei, thence to the south of Dal Dal Gaandelci, to Uacsen, thence to Iet, leaving Iet to the Italian Administration, thence in a south-south-west direction between Abdi Nur and El Garap, thence between Bar Curale and Sanca Bissach, to a point 3 kilometres north of Laaz Chi Rahanuin, thence between Did Anan and El Did Anan, thence 3 kilometres to the north of Ega Dale, and thence to Dolo. At Dolo the line follows the already demarcated frontier dividing the locality between Ethiopia and Somaliland."