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EXAMINATION OF PETITIONS

SOMALILAND UNDER ITALIAN ADMINISTRATION

Observations of the Administering Authority

Note by the Secretariat: The following observations were communicated to the Secretary-General on 21 and 28 May 1952 by the Italian observer to the United Nations. They relate to the following petitions:

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1. Petition from the representatives of the Ogaden tribes (T/PET.11/73)

This petition deals with a question relating to the boundaries of Ethiopia and the Trust Territory of Somaliland, a matter which the Trusteeship Council has declared to be outside its competence (resolution 340 (VIII) of 15 March 1951).

2. Petition from the pupils of the evening school, Merca (T/PET.11/171)

The petitioners complain that the Merca evening school is not operating satisfactorily.

In this connexion it should be pointed out that during the school year 1951-52 six evening courses, attended by a total of 225 pupils were given at the school and that instruction was given by a Libyan teacher specially appointed to teach Arabic.

To meet the request of one of the pupils registered at the evening school for Italian, the competent public education authorities decided that the teacher, Sciaffik Laradi, would also give an evening course in Arabic.

It has not been possible to give effect to this decision because of the small number of enrollments for the course -- only ten -- a circumstance which shows that, as in other parts of the territory, there is very little interest in Arabic among students attending evening courses.

With regard to the provision of teaching equipment, the Merca school has been adequately supplied since the beginning of the school year, as the members of the United Nation Visiting Mission were able to see for themselves when they inspected the day and evening schools for boys and girls.

It does not appear that any pupils have applied for registration at an Egyptian correspondence school.

3. Petition from the Somali students, Obbia (T/PET.11/275)

The petitioners claim that the school opened by the administration at Obbia is inefficient.

In this connexion it may be pointed out that a Somali teacher, Abdullahi Auod Mohamed, who was one of the students attending the teachers' training courses at Mogadascio, has been appointed at the school at Obbia, which opened during the school year 1951-1952.

It does not seem that Abdullahi has proved to be incompetent. In any case, the results of his teaching are still to be seen. If they are unsatisfactory, the Administration will not fail to arrange for the replacement of Abdullahi by a more competent teacher.

With regard to expenditure on rent for the school premises, it may be noted that the rent is 200 somalos a month and not 470 somalos as stated by the petitioners.

Like all the schools opened in the territory, the school at Obbia is supplied with the equipment necessary for its work.
