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PETITIONS CONCERNING SOMALILAND UNDER ITALIAN ADMINISTRATION

Working paper prepared by the Secretariat

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XIX. Petition from Mr. Abdulwahid Maallim Mohamed Hagi (T/PET.11/805)

1. In a letter dated 26 October 1959, the petitioner - who states that he is responsible for the Eil Division in the Bur Hacaba District - informs the United Nations of his people's displeasure with the Somali Government. He complains about the lack of dispensaries and schools in the District. He accuses the Somali Government of having failed to bring relief to the people when famine struck; cattle and children died and people became very poor. The petitioner appeals to the United Nations for help.

2. In its observations (T/OBS.11/109, section 2) the Administering Authority states that the "Eile" ethnic group, which lives in the territory of Bur Hacaba, has access to the health and educational institutions in the District, comprising one infirmary, three dispensaries, five day schools and six evening schools. The Administering Authority agrees that expansion is obviously desirable in all areas, especially in the matter of health services, but such expansion must take place gradually and on a basis of rational distribution; it cannot honestly be maintained that the Government is neglecting the Bur Hacaba District. In order to demonstrate the efforts made by the Government in the field of health, the Administering Authority refers to a speech made by the Minister of Health on 7 April 1960 in celebration of World Health Day and reproduced in the Corriere della Somalia of 8 April 1960.

3. The Administering Authority adds that, during the recent food shortage from which the people of Bur Hacaba did not suffer seriously, the Government was prompt in the distribution of relief supplies: 343 quintals of rice were distributed in June and August 1959. This quantity was fixed in proportion to the number of inhabitants needing relief on the basis of general criteria for relief established by the competent committee. The Administering Authority concludes that there appears to be no real foundation for the complaints made by this petitioner.

XX. Petition from Mr. Mohamed Hussen Hagi Maio-Scekal (T/PET.11/817)

1. A personal complaint directed against the District Commissioner of Merca is contained in this petition dated 21 December 1959. The author of the petition, a resident of the Arab Village in Mogadiscio, complains that on 11 December 1959,

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late in the evening, he was summoned out onto the street by the District Commissioner who accused him of having insulted him and who then proceeded to have him attacked bodily by fourteen ilalos. He was slapped, kicked, thrown to the ground; in the scuffle, one of his teeth was broken. When it was over, the Commissioner told him that he had been duly punished by the Government and that he could go; two days later, the Commissioner himself handed him ten Sols. as "settlement".

2. The petitioner requests that an official explanation be given to him of the Commissioner's aggressive and unwarranted action against him.

3. The Administering Authority states, in its observations (T/OBS.11/109, section 4), that there is no foundation for the allegation that ill-treatment was inflicted by the District Commissioner of Merca to the petitioner. The Commissioner gave the petitioner, who is an ex-serviceman, ten somalos for purposes of assistance and not as "indemnification for the ill-usage which he had suffered", as claimed in the petition.
