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## PETITIONS CONCERNING THE TRUST TERRITORY OF SOMALILAND

### Twenty-fourth Report of the Standing Committee on Petitions

Chairman: Mr. H. K. Yang (China)

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At its 45th, 60th and 71st meetings on 26 May, 8 and 15 June 1953, the Standing Committee on Petitions composed of the representatives of Belgium, China, El Salvador, New Zealand, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the United States of America, examined the fourteen petitions concerning the Trust Territory of Somaliland under Italian Administration which are listed in the preceding Table of Contents.

Mr. P. Spinelli participated in the examination as the special representative of the Administering Authority concerned.

The Standing Committee submits herewith to the Council its report on these petitions - all of which are concerned with political and administrative questions - and recommends, in accordance with rule 90 paragraph 6, of the rules of procedure of the Trusteeship Council, that the Council decide that no special information is required concerning the action taken on the draft resolutions in Sections I to IX inclusive.

I. Petitions concerning the opening at Lugh Ferrandi of a branch of the  
Unione Africani Della Somalia.

The Residency Council of Lugh,  
Territorial Councillor Malim Omar,  
and the Hisbia, Dighil and Mirifle,  
Branch of Lugh (T/FET.11/290 and Add.1)

1. Identical telegrams dated 13 June 1952 were received on the above-mentioned subject: the one from the Residency Council of Lugh and Territorial Councillor Malim Omar, and the other from the Hisbia, Dighil and Mirifle Party, section of Lugh. The addendum, which contained fuller information, was submitted by twenty-six Residency Councillors - among whom is Mr. Malim Omar - and it is this which will be summarized.

2. Towards the end of May 1952, the Resident of Lugh Ferrandi gave permission for a branch of the Unione Africani della Somalia Party to be opened there.

A number of the people were strongly opposed to the branch's being opened and advised the Resident to postpone it. He did; but a few days later he decided to open the branch "at all costs", and "would even use armed force if necessary" for the purpose. The Residency Councillors then wrote to the Resident a strongly-worded, but by no means disrespectful, letter (a copy of which is annexed to the petition) advising him to postpone the opening once again, and warning him that, if he persisted and if anything went wrong as a result, he would be the person responsible.

3. On 13 June 1952, the Resident arranged for the opening of the branch. A large crowd had collected at the appointed place. Italian and Somali police arrived and told it to disperse, and at the same time began to shoot. Four persons were wounded and the rest fled. Then the police rounded up a number of persons and put them in prison.

4. The petitioners request that, if the arrested persons are to be tried, a special judge should be nominated, as it is their view that the Provincial Commissioner is most responsible for the incident, since the Resident would never have dared to have done what he did unless he had had his orders from the former.

5. The only statement in the telegrams which is not reproduced in the addendum to the petitions is that terrorized women had fled to the bush or had thrown themselves into the river.
6. According to the observations of the Administering Authority (T/OBS.11/3, section 12), the course of events was substantially as narrated by the petitioners. The crowd, however, was a menacing one; and when requested to disperse it started to press on the police. A fight developed; and fearing lest they be overpowered the police were compelled to resort to arms. Five persons were arrested but were temporarily released. When the crowd had fled, the inauguration ceremony took place without further incident; but, the next day, the secretary of the new branch of the Unione was assaulted and beaten by three members of opposing parties.
7. The Administering Authority points to the political intolerance evinced by the demonstrators, and to the duty which article 20 of the Trusteeship Agreement imposes upon it to guarantee complete freedom of speech.
8. The petition was examined and discussed at the 45th and 71st meetings of the Standing Committee (documents T/C.2/SR.45 and 71).
9. The special representative explained that during the past six months there had been no complaint of friction between the parties in Lugh Ferrandi.
10. With regard to the petitioners' request for a special judge to try the case, the special representative explained that until the latter part of 1952 the regular judge had been the Provincial Commissioner, but that since then a regional judge had been appointed.
11. At its 71st meeting, the Committee adopted, by 5 votes to none, with 1 abstention, the following draft resolution, which it recommends that the Council adopt.

Petition concerning the opening at Lugh Ferrandi of a branch of the  
Unione Africana della Somalia (T.PET.11/290 and Add.1)  
Concerning Somaliland under Italian Administration

The Trusteeship Council

Acting under Article 87 b of the Charter and in accordance with its rules of procedure,

Having accepted and examined at its twelfth session the petition concerning the opening at Lugh Ferrandi of a branch of the Unione Africana della Somalia (T/PET.11/290 and Add.1) in consultation with Italy as the Administering Authority concerned, which designated Mr. P. Spinelli as special representative,

Having taken note of the written observations of the Administering Authority (T/OBS.11/3) as well as of the oral statement of the special representative (T/C.2/SR.45 and 71),

Having taken note of the relevant report of the Standing Committee on Petitions (T/L.339, section I),

1. Draws the attention of the petitioners to the observations of the Administering Authority;
2. Considers that under the circumstances no recommendation by the Council is necessary;
3. Invites the Secretary-General to inform the Administering Authority and the petitioners of this resolution in accordance with rule 93 of the rules of procedure for the Trusteeship Council.

II. Petitions concerning an incident at Lugh Ferrandi in October 1952

Chief Dahir Sciacul (T/PET.11/320)  
Chief Scido Mohamed (T.PET.11/321)

1. T/PET.11/320 reads as follows:

"The people of Lugh have been maltreated by the local authorities because there was an incident on the 27th of this month (October 1952). If they are again maltreated, we chiefs will free the town. We request you to intervene in our sorrow."

2. T/PET.11/321 reads as follows:

"There was an incident at Lugh on the 27th of October. The local authorities have imprisoned many innocent people and have not arrested the guilty." (Its author appears to be the author also of T/COM.11/L.10 - see section 3 below).

3. The observations of the Administering Authority (T/OBS.11/4, sections 6 and 7), are to the following effect. A young girl who cohabited with the secretary of the local branch of the Hisbia, Dighil and Mirifle party was walking in the town one day when she was abducted by a couple of men, who took her into their house and beat her as a mark of their displeasure at the disgrace which she had brought on their tribe. Some people who saw the abduction went and told her lover. He collected a number of H.D.M. members, went to the house and called for the girl's immediate release. A policeman turned up, and the girl was released bearing signs of battery. Meanwhile, numerous followers of the H.D.M. and of the Somali Youth League had lined up with the obvious intention of coming to blows: and the police intervened to avert trouble. Later on, a crowd consisting mostly of women, besieged the house wherein one of the abductors had taken refuge, and another scuffle ensued.

4. As a result of all this, the two abductors and twenty others were arrested; but, of the latter, thirteen were detained for twenty-four hours only.

5. The Provincial Commissioner visited Lugh from 17 to 21 November 1952, and no grievance was voiced to him concerning anything connected with the incident.

6. The petitions were examined and discussed at the 45th, 60th and 71st meetings of the Standing Committee (documents T/C.2/SR.45, 60 and 71).
7. The special representative informed the Committee that the parties had settled the affair and that the prosecutor had ordered that the judicial file be closed.
8. At its 71st meeting, the Committee adopted, by 5 votes to none, with 1 abstention, the following draft resolution, which it recommends that the Council adopt.



Petitions concerning an incident at Lugh Ferrandi in  
October 1952 (T/PET.11/320 and 321) Concerning  
Somaliland under Italian Administration

The Trusteeship Council

Acting under Article 87 b of the Charter and in accordance with its rules of procedure,

Having accepted and examined at its twelfth session the petitions concerning an incident at Lugh Ferrandi in October 1952 (T/PET.11/320 and 321) in consultation with Italy as the Administering Authority concerned, which designated Mr. P. Spinelli as special representative,

Having taken note of the written observations of the Administering Authority (T/OBS.11/4) as well as of the oral statement of the special representative (T/C.2/SR.45),

Having taken note of the relevant report of the Standing Committee on Petitions (T/L.339, section II)

1. Draws the attention of the petitioners to the observations of the Administering Authority and of the special representative;
2. Considers that under the circumstances no recommendation by the Council is necessary;
3. Invites the Secretary-General to inform the Administering Authority and the petitioners of this resolution in accordance with rule 93 of the rules of procedure for the Trusteeship Council.

III. Petitions from certain chiefs of the Merehan and Aulihan tribes in Bardera District

Chief Dorle Gheir (T/COM.11/L.6)

Chief Aden Gohad (T/COM.11/L.7)

Chief Seck Mohamed Keinan (T/COM.11/L.8)

The "Capo Procuratore Dahir Sciukel", Bardera (T/COM.11/L.10)

1. These communications are four to which the Standing Committee decided that the established procedure relating to petitions should apply. They consist of four brief telegrams emanating from Bardera and contain statements of dissatisfaction with the Resident on the part of certain people of the Merehan and Aulihan tribes.

2. The complaints as elucidated by the Administering Authority (T/OBS.11/5, section 1) together with its observations thereon, are as follows:

(a)

Complaint: The manner in which the Police proceed to arrest persons is arbitrary. The Police refuse to grant temporary release on bail of a person under arrest when such is applied for by the headmen.

Observation: The Administration is unaware of any unlawful arrests. Authority to grant temporary release on bail lies with the Judicial authorities; nevertheless, the Resident at Lugh had granted it on several occasions when the headmen concerned were unable, or did not wish, to bring the accused persons before the Court.

(b)

Complaint: Following disturbances connected with a raid carried out between the Merehan and the Gobauen in 1951, the accused of the former tribe were arrested before those of the latter.

Observation: This is correct - but they were released from prison before the accused of Gobauen.

(c)

Complaint: The salaries paid to headmen in general are very low and especially those paid to the Merehan headmen.

Observation: A general complaint by all tribal headmen who apply for increases of salary without considering the exigencies of their future budgets.

(d)

Complaint: The Administration treats the Merehan and the Aulihan unfairly with regard to their employment as sweepers, airport guards, locust control workers, brokers and ilalos.

Observation: The Administration treats the Merehan and the Aulihan no differently in this respect than it treats workers of other tribes.

3. The petitions were examined and discussed at the 45th and 71st meetings of the Standing Committee (documents T/C.2/SR.45 and 71).

4. The special representative stated that in the Bardera region during the last year there had been many disturbances caused by friction between the various tribes. Each tribe registered the general complaint that the Resident favoured another tribe at the expense of their own, but no effective proof of such charges was ever offered. The complaint that the Administration awarded more jobs to members of other tribes was simply a reflection of the fact that more members of other tribes than of the Merehan and Aulihan reside in the village.

5. At its 71st meeting, the Committee adopted, by 5 votes to 0 with 1 abstention, the following draft resolution, which it recommends that the Council adopt.

Petitions from certain chiefs of the Merehan and Aulihan  
tribes in Bardera District (T/COM.11/L.6, 7, 8 and 10)  
Concerning Somaliland under Italian Administration

The Trusteeship Council

Acting under Article 87 b of the Charter and in accordance with its rules of procedure,

Having accepted and examined at its twelfth session the petitions from certain chiefs of the Merehan and Aulihan tribes in Bardera District (T/COM.11/L.6, 7, 8 and 10) in consultation with Italy as the Administering Authority concerned, which designated Mr. P. Spinelli as special representative,

Having taken note of the written observations of the Administering Authority (T/OBS.11/5) as well as of the oral statement of the special representative (T/C.2/SR.45),

Having taken note of the relevant report of the Standing Committee on Petitions (T/L.339, section III),

1. Draws the attention of the petitioners to the observations of the Administering Authority;
2. Considers that under the circumstances no recommendation by the Council is necessary;
3. Invites the Secretary-General to inform the Administering Authority and the petitioners of this resolution in accordance with rule 93 of the rules of procedure for the Trusteeship Council.

IV. Petition from the Chiefs and Notables of the Lower Giuba Province  
(T/PET.11/355)

1. It appears that Dr. Aldo Wagner has been Commissioner of the Lower Giuba Province for a year or so, and that he has been transferred elsewhere. This petition, signed by twenty-three chiefs and notables (among whom are two Territorial Councillors), is a plea that his services be secured again in the Lower Giuba Province. The petitioners speak of Dr. Wagner's spirit of understanding and of his initiative. He made himself known throughout the Province, took an interest in all its needs and was responsible during the space of only a year for the execution of many public works.
2. In connexion with this petition the Standing Committee took into consideration T/COM.11/L.70. This consists of two communications from the Secretary of the Chisimaio branch of the Lega Progressista SOMALI to the Administrator. In the first, a telegram, it is claimed that Dr. Wagner's retention in the Province is "the desire of absolute majority of Somali population who are dissatisfied with intrigues of a minority party...". In the second, a letter, tribute is paid to Dr. Wagner's energy in all fields, to his spirit of justice and to his impartiality. The writer says "...harmony reigning now, for the first time, amongst us in Chisimaio."
3. The Administering Authority states (T/OBS.11/17, section 6) that Dr. Wagner has proceeded to Italy for a spell of home leave, and that he has been replaced by another officer.
4. The petition was examined and discussed at the 45th and 71st meetings of the Standing Committee (documents T/C.2/SR.45 and 71).
5. The special representative stated that the Administration must be left free to post its officers to whatever places it thinks best in the interest of the Territory.
6. At its 71st meeting, the Committee adopted, by 5 votes to 0 with 1 abstention, the following draft resolution, which it recommends that the Council adopt.

Petition from the Chiefs and Notables of the  
Lower Giuba Province (T/PET.11/355) Concerning  
Somaliland under Italian Administration

The Trusteeship Council

Acting under Article 87 b of the Charter and in accordance with its rules of procedure,

Having accepted and examined at its twelfth session the petition from the Chiefs and Notables of the Lower Giuba Province (T/PET.11/355) in consultation with Italy as the Administering Authority concerned, which designated Mr. P. Spinelli as special representative,

Having taken note of the written observations of the Administering Authority (T/OBS.11/17) as well as of the oral statement of the special representative (T/C.2/SR.45),

Having taken note of the relevant report of the Standing Committee on Petitions (T/L.339, section IV),

1. Draws the attention of the petitioners to the observations of the Administering Authority;
2. Considers that under the circumstances no recommendation by the Council is necessary;
3. Invites the Secretary-General to inform the Administering Authority and the petitioners of this resolution in accordance with rule 93 of the rules of procedure for the Trusteeship Council.

V. Petition from Chiefs of Belet Uen (T/PET.11/265)

1. The general burden of the complaints in this petition is that the people are misruled by the Administration officials and that the Chiefs themselves are persecuted for not belonging to "the so-called 'Pro Italy' parties" - even though they do not belong either to "the opposition, known as the Somali Youth League". They adduce several specific complaints which will be presented together with the relevant observation of the Administering Authority appearing in T/OBS.11/7, section 2.

(a)

2. Complaint: No Municipal Council has been set up in Belet Uen, and the Residency Council fails to function because its members have been chosen for their political ideas and subservience to officialdom rather than for their education and ability. They do not represent the population either politically or ethnically.

3. Observation: The Municipal Council set up in November 1951 did not function properly until April 1952, when it was possible to demarcate a division of functions between it and the Residency. The Residency Council functioned properly during the whole of 1952, and in April of that year the Resident varied its composition in the light of the ethnic composition of the District. Since then, the dissenting minority has begun to take part again in the Council's meetings.

(b)

4. Complaint: On the occasion of a visit to Belet Uen by the Administrator, the Makanne tribe were permitted - despite Police advice - to make a demonstration with spears and other weapons. There was an incident leading to a large number of persons being wounded. As a result, seven men were detained in prison for a month and fined So. 100 for illegally carrying arms.

5. Observation: Permission was given to the Makanne tribe to perform a tribal dance on the occasion - but on condition that no arms were to be carried. In the excitement of the dance, some of the participants produced weapons and unintentionally injured three persons. They were accordingly dealt with by the law.

(c)

6. Complaint: The Resident refused to allow the convening of a shir, with the object of removing a certain chief, on the motion of forty-five persons: the reason being that the chief was a member of "the African party".

7. Observation: A shir cannot be convened on the motion of ten (not forty-five) persons. In any event, the chief enjoys the respect of his own people.

(d)

8. Complaint: Chief Nur Siad is on trial "only for having seen superficially a year ago a woman who had been wounded on the head ... and who then died as a consequence of a confinement". This cannot be the real reason for his trial - since for over 30 years he has given medical assistance in such ways, and is known in all Somaliland as a good surgeon. Therefore, he must be on trial for participating in "our group of independent persons".

9. Observation: The Chief was never detained, but warned that he must cease his quasi-medical activities which are unlawful. There are two medical officers at Belet Uen.

(e)

10. Complaint: Chief Ibrahim Abdo has been charged with bearing false witness, but (the argument runs similar to that in (d) above) this only happened because he refuses to join the Unione Africana Somala.

11. Observation: The charge against him is that he gave false evidence leading to the collection by a man of arrears of military pay not due to him.



(f)

12. It will be recalled that there are two enclosures in the petition which were not circulated with it. They are copies of letters addressed to the Administrator and are dated, respectively, 21 November 1951 and 31 December 1951. In so far as they concern matters which have not been before the Trusteeship Council on a previous occasion, the Administering Authority has submitted observations on them and they will now be presented.

(g)

13. Complaint: During 1951 there was some trouble among the people in the District over some political refugees, and the Provincial Commissioner attempted to stir it up by persuading other tribes to join in.

14. Observation: The trouble was promptly settled by the authorities.

(h)

15. Complaint: The Administration persuaded a number of people to stage a dance in honour of the 1951 Visiting Mission, but many of them failed to turn out for the purpose. For this, the Administration brought "pressure" to bear on them.

16. Observation: It was the dancers who offered to give an exhibition, but they gave up the idea when they were threatened with violence by a group of Somalis if the dance were performed. As a result, six persons were convicted of intimidation.

(i)

17. A general complaint that prisoners on remand are compelled to work is denied by the Administering Authority which states that they are required only to tidy up their places of detention.

18. The petition was examined and discussed at the 45th and 71st meetings of the Standing Committee (documents T/C.2/SR.45 and 71).

19. The special representative stated that the Municipal Council had been functioning regularly. Belet Uen at the moment has a Municipal Council but as yet there is no Municipality. Instead there is an Administrator of Municipal Services advised by the Council. In 1954 Belet Uen would have its own Municipality and later there would be a Mayor elected by the Municipal Council.

20. With regard to the question raised by the petitioners concerning the convening of a shir, a meeting for the election of a chief, the special representative stated that such a meeting must be called for by a substantial number of members of the tribe. Neither 10 members, nor 45 members, represented a sufficiently large proportion of the tribe to justify the convening of a shir.

21. As regards the quasi-medical activities of Chief Nur Siad, the special representative emphasized the fact that the chief was endangering lives by his activities and that various people he treated had had to go to the hospital to recover from the effects of his methods. People were loath to give up their traditional system of medical treatment in favour of modern methods. There had been, however, an increase in the number of persons willing to seek modern medical advice. The Administering Authority is attempting to accelerate this trend. The special representative was not aware of any specific complaint that a person who needed hospitalization or medical treatment had not received it.

The political refugees mentioned in the petition came from tribes living in Ethiopia. There was an attempt on the part of the political parties of Somaliland to attract the refugees in order to increase their membership, but most of the refugees had now returned to Ethiopia.

At its 71st meeting, the Committee adopted by 5 votes to 0 with 1 abstention the following draft resolution, which it recommends that the Council adopt.

Petition from Chiefs of Belet Uen (T/PET.11/265)  
Concerning Somaliland under Italian Administration

The Trusteeship Council

Acting under Article 87 b of the Charter and in accordance with its rules of procedure,

Having accepted and examined at its twelfth session the petition from the Chiefs of Belet Uen (T/PET.11/265) in consultation with Italy as the Administering Authority concerned, which designated Mr. P. Spinelli as special representative,

Having taken note of the written observations of the Administering Authority (T/OBS.11/7) as well as of the oral statement of the special representative (T/C.2/SR.45 and 71),

Having taken note of the relevant report of the Standing Committee on Petitions (T/L.339, section V),

1. Draws the attention of the petitioners to the observations of the Administering Authority and in particular:

- (a) with regard to the petitioners' complaint concerning the lack of a Municipal Council in Belet Uen, to the statement that a Municipal Council now exists and a Municipality will be established in 1954;
- (b) with regard to the complaint that the Resident refused to allow the convening of a shir, to the statement that the persons concerned did not constitute a sufficiently large proportion of the tribe to justify the convening of a shir;
- (c) with regard to the charge that the medical activities of Chief Nur Siad were interrupted for political reasons, to the special representative's statement that the Chief had done real harm in carrying out his quasi-medical activities, that medical facilities in the Territory are adequate to the demand for them, and that the Administering Authority is taking measures to educate the people to seek modern medical assistance;

2. Calls on the people of Somaliland to take advantage of the efforts exerted by the Administering Authority to provide medical facilities and hospitals for the population of Somaliland;
3. Suggests to the Administering Authority that it continue its efforts to develop both preventive and curative medicine;
4. Invites the Secretary-General to inform the Administering Authority and the petitioners of this resolution in accordance with rule 93 of the rules of procedure for the Trusteeship Council.

VI. Petition from Messrs. Ali Mohamed Hifo, Noor Amin Hassan, Amin Ahmed Elai and others (T/HET.11/328 and Add.1)

1. The petitioners, who are notables and elders of Galgial Barsane - Jever Dumat, are anxious for permission from the Resident of Villabruzzi to convene a shir to elect a successor to the deceased Chief Abdulla Amin Farah. The man they wish to elect is the notable Ali Mohamed Hifo. They complain that the Resident will neither grant their requests nor reply to the several letters which have been written to him on the subject; and that, on the contrary, he has appointed a favourite of his, Sceek Amin Haji Hassan, to the vacant chieftom. When the petitioners and others refused blind obedience to the Resident's nominee, he had four of them imprisoned for three days and fined them So. 50 each. When one of them asked what he had been fined for, he was hit by the Resident with a blotter.
2. Annexed to the petition are copies of eleven letters, all on the same subject, written by various parties interested in the removal of Sceek Amin Haji Hassan. Six of the letters were addressed to the Resident of Villabruzzi, three to the Commissioner of the Benadir Province and two to the Commissioner of the Uebi Scebeli Province. The only new complaint made in any of them is that the sergeant at the Villabruzzi Residency will not arrange interviews with the Resident unless he receives a bribe. The addendum repeats the request that a shir be convened.
3. The Administering Authority explains (T/OBS.11/18, section 1) that the Galgial Barsane are divided into six sections. One chief presides over the whole tribe, and over each section presides a notable. At a shir held in July 1951, all the sections by a majority of votes confirmed the appointment of Sceek Amin Haji Hassan as chief of the tribe. Mr. Ali Mohamed Hifo, who was the candidate presented by the Jever Dumat section, refused however to accept the decision of the shir - maintaining that, as his section was the most numerous group of the tribe, the chief should be elected from its members. He and some of his adherents stirred up unrest to such an extent that the local

authorities had to intervene on more than one occasion. A compromise has been reached, however, by appointing Mr. Ali Mohamed Hifo as notable of the Jever Dumal section, and the Administering Authority states that the affair must be regarded as closed.

4. The petition was examined and discussed at the 45th and 71st meetings of the Standing Committee (documents T/C.2/SR.45, and 71).

5. At its 71st meeting, the Committee unanimously adopted the following draft resolution, which it recommends that the Council adopt.

Petition from Messrs. Ali Mohamed Hifo, Noor Amin Hassan,  
Amin Ahmed Elai and others (T/PET.11/328 and Add.1)  
Concerning Somaliland under Italian Administration

The Trusteeship Council

Acting under Article 87 b of the Charter and in accordance with its rules of procedure,

Having accepted and examined at its twelfth session the petition from Messrs. Ali Mohamed Hifo, Noor Amin Hassan, Amin Ahmed Elai and others (T/PET.11/328 and Add.1) in consultation with Italy as the Administering Authority concerned, which designated Mr. P. Spinelli as special representative,

Having taken note of the relevant report of the Standing Committee on Petitions (T/L.339, section VI),

1. Draws the attention of the petitioners to the observations of the Administering Authority, and in particular to the statement that the affair must be regarded as closed;
2. Considers that under the circumstances no recommendation by the Council is necessary;
3. Invites the Secretary-General to inform the Administering Authority and the petitioners of this resolution in accordance with rule 93 of the rules of procedure for the Trusteeship Council.

VII. Petitions concerning the two representatives for Mudugh Province on the Territorial Council

Chiefs and Representatives of the Cabila Rer Mohamud Tribe and Six Other Tribes (T/PET.11/267)

Chiefs and Notables of Omar Mohamud - Rer Mahad, and Eleven Other Tribes of Mudugh (T/PET.11/279)

1. In T/PET.11/267, chiefs and representatives of the Cabila Rer Mohamud tribes and six other tribes protest against the appointment of Mr. Dahir Sed Giama and Mr. Ismail Giama Gis as the representatives for Mudugh Province on the Territorial Council. They state that these representatives were not fairly elected, that they are not tribal chiefs or even popular with their tribespeople and that they were nominated solely because they are officials of the "pro-Italian" Lega Progressista Somala party which exists only by name in the Province. They aver that despite the regulations of the Territorial Council, these representatives are absolutely illiterate, and they repudiate them.
2. In T/PET.11/279, chiefs and notables of Omar Mohamud Rer Mahad and eleven other tribes of Mudugh protest against the charges, recorded in the immediately preceding paragraph, concerning the election of Mr. Dahir Sed Giama and Mr. Ismail Giama Gis as representatives of Mudugh Province on the Territorial Council. They assert that these two representatives were freely elected by a popular majority and are supported by at least 95 per cent of the Somalis of Mudugh. They say that the only opposition to the two representatives comes from the Somali Youth League, about which they offer a few uncomplimentary remarks.
3. The Administering Authority (T/OBS.11/6, section 3) first asks that the diametrically opposite views in T/PET.11/267 and 279 be allowed to speak for themselves, and then goes on to explain that the two representatives were freely designated, the one by the Municipal Advisory Council and the other by the Regional Assembly (itself elected by the Municipal Councils). It attaches copies of the minutes of the meetings at which the elections took place.



4. The petitions were examined and discussed at the 45th and 71st meetings of the Standing Committee (documents T/C.2/SR.45 and 71).
5. At its 71st meeting, the Committee adopted, by 5 votes to 0 with 1 abstention, the following draft resolution, which it recommends that the Council adopt.

Petitions concerning the two representatives for Mudugh  
Province on the Territorial Council (T/PET.11/267 and 279)  
concerning Somaliland under Italian Administration

The Trusteeship Council

Acting under Article 87 b of the Charter and in accordance with its rules of procedure,

Having accepted and examined at its twelfth session the petitions concerning the two representatives for Mudugh Province on the Territorial Council (T/PET.11/267 and 279) in consultation with Italy as the Administering Authority concerned, which designated Mr. P. Spinelli as special representative,

Having taken note of the written observations of the Administering Authority (T/OBS.11/6),

Having taken note of the relevant report of the Standing Committee on Petitions (T/L.339, section VII),

1. Draws the attention of the petitioners to the observations of the Administering Authority;
2. Considers that under the circumstances no recommendation by the Council is necessary;
3. Invites the Secretary-General to inform the Administering Authority and the petitioners of this resolution in accordance with rule 93 of the rules of procedure for the Trusteeship Council.

VIII. Petition from the Committee of the Unione Africana Somalia  
in Mijertein (T/PET.11/335)

1. The petition, incapable of literal translation, was issued in the following summary form:
2. It complains of the refusal of the Commissioner of the Mijertein to permit the establishment of a branch of the Unione Africana Somalia in that Province. It claims that the branch has fulfilled the requirements set forth in the ordinance of 14 October 1952, in that 230 persons wish to belong to the party.
3. The communication complains of general discriminatory policies of the Commissioner and states that the people of the Mijertein are suffering from three catastrophes:
  - (1) widespread sickness
  - (2) drought
  - (3) the return of the Italian Administration in their land.
4. The observations of the Administering Authority (T/OBS.11/17, section 2) deal first with the complaint concerning the establishment in the Mijertein of a branch of the Unione Africana Somalia. When, in November 1952, emissaries of the party visited the Mijertein, they met such opposition by members of the Lega Progressista Somala that minor incidents occurred, and the Provincial Commissioner decided that it would not be in the interests of public order to permit branches of the Unione to be established in the Province for the time being. With the assistance of his Residents, however, he took steps to persuade public opinion that every political party should be free to exercise its activities within the limits of the law; and his efforts were so successful that, by the middle of March 1953, branches of the Unione had been opened in three centres, and had pursued their activities free of any incidents.
5. The Administering Authority describes the affair as yet another instance of the intolerance evinced by one political party for another.
6. As regards the vague accusations in the rest of the petition, the Administering Authority invites reference to its annual report on the Territory for 1952, and to its observations on T/PET.11/114, in the course of which it described what it was doing to improve economic and social conditions in the Mijertein (see Council resolution 537(XI)).

7. The petition was examined and discussed at the 45th and 71st meetings of the Standing Committee (documents T/C.2/SR.45 and 71).

8. In regard to the statement in the petition that the people of the Mijertein are suffering from drought the special representative said that the Administering Authority fully realizes that it was not enough simply to send food and supplies into the area, but that the problem must be attacked by trying to alter the economic situation. The Administering Authority accordingly was attempting to train more persons in fishing, since the supply of fish is good. It also had under study a plan to give financial help to a firm which would develop the salt mines of Hafun. The equipment of the mines was destroyed during the war and the mines were not now in operation for want of approximately \$500,000 needed to replace equipment. The Administering Authority had also approached UNICEF, and an expert on nutrition was to go to Mudugh and the Mijertein to conduct a survey and make proposals both to UNICEF and to the Italian Government.

9. With regard to the petitioners' complaint of widespread sickness, the special representative pointed out that sickness is not much greater in the region under consideration than in others. Certain diseases are the result of the climate - e.g. trachoma, caused by the sand and wind - while others are due to malnutrition. Fresh fruits and vitamins are sent into the area and certain persons are sent to Mogadiscio to recover. The major need in the area is not more doctors but a better diet.

10. At its 71st meeting, the Committee adopted, by 5 votes to 0 with 1 abstention, the following draft resolution, which it recommends that the Council adopt.

Petition from the Committee of the Unione  
Africani Somalia in Mijertein (T/PET.11/335)  
concerning Somaliland under Italian Administration

The Trusteeship Council,

Acting under Article 87 b of the Charter and in accordance with its rules of procedure,

Having accepted and examined at its twelfth session the petition from the Committee of the Unione Africani Somalia in Mijertein (T/PET.11/335) in consultation with Italy as the Administering Authority concerned, which designated Mr. P. Spinelli as special representative,

Having taken note of the written observations of the Administering Authority (T/OBS.11/17) as well as of the oral statement of the special representative (T/C.2/SR.45),

Having taken note of the relevant report of the Standing Committee on Petitions (T/L.339, section VIII),

1. Draws the attention of the petitioner to the observations of the Administering Authority and in particular with regard to the petitioners' complaints concerning drought and widespread sickness,

(a) to the statement of the special representative regarding the efforts of the Administering Authority to improve economic conditions in the Mijertein through the development of fishing, the possible financing of a company to develop the salt mines and the initiation of a study by an expert of UNICEF on nutrition;

(b) to the statement that the widespread sickness complained of by the petitioners is largely attributable to climatic conditions and malnutrition, that it is not much greater in this region than in others, and that the Administration is doing all in its power to combat such conditions;

2. Considers that under the circumstances no recommendation by the Council is necessary;

3. Invites the Secretary-General to inform the Administering Authority and the petitioner of this resolution in accordance with rule 93 of the rules of procedure for the Trusteeship Council.

IX. Petition from Messrs. Mussa Mohamed Baquer Othman, Said Mahmoud  
Mussa and others (T/IET.11/349)

1. The petitioners complain that nearly 500 members of the Hersi tribe in Mogadiscio were rounded up for police interrogation. Each one was asked to state his tribe, and those who refused were beaten, insulted, imprisoned for thirty-two hours, and on release were all deported to various distant places. Those who were taken to Garowe had no food on the journey and six were imprisoned on arrival for nine days. Those who went to Bender Eil were chained hand and foot, imprisoned and fined So.0.80 cts. daily; what there was of the prison food was fit only for donkeys, and the prison conditions were horrid.

2. The Administering Authority states (T/OBS.11/19, section 4) that the petitioners are referring to the events of 7 March 1952, when a number of persons in Mogadiscio were rounded up and interrogated concerning the attack on Territorial Councillor Sceek Mohamed Sceek Osman. The affair was one of the subjects of T/PET.11/273, and the Administering Authority invites reference to its observations thereon contained in T/OBS.11/7, section 4, paragraph 6. The total number of persons detained on that occasion was 234, and fifty only were repatriated to their places of origin.

3. While waiting at Garowe for their onward transport, the six petitioners were guilty of violence towards a police sergeant and received prison sentences varying from one to two years (appeals against their sentences by two of the petitioners are under consideration). It does not appear from enquiries made that the prisoners suffered any ill-treatment by the police, and their complaints of conditions in the prison at Eil are devoid of foundation.

4. The petition was examined and discussed at the 45th and 71st meetings of the Standing Committee (documents T/C.2/SR.45 and 71).

5. In regard to the questioning of persons as to the name of their tribe, the special representative stated that the name of the tribe is useful to the Administering Authority in identifying persons since there are so many persons with the same name. No one, however, is compelled to give the name of his tribe.

6. Following the second attack upon a Territorial Councillor the police detained 234 persons of whom fifty were repatriated to their places of origin because they could give no good reason why they were in Mogadiscio. They had no means of subsistence, no relatives and had been seen often with people of bad reputation.
7. At its 71st meeting, the Committee adopted, by 5 votes to 1 the following draft resolution, which it recommends that the Council adopt.

Petition from Messrs. Mussa Mohamed Baquer Othman,  
Said Mahmoud Mussa and others (T/PET.11/349)  
concerning Somaliland under the Italian Administration

The Trusteeship Council

Acting under Article 87 b of the Charter and in accordance with its rules of procedure,

Having accepted and examined at its twelfth session the petition from Messrs. Mussa Mohamed Baquer Othman, Said Mahmoud Mussa and others (T/PET.11/349) in consultation with Italy as the Administering Authority concerned, which designated Mr. P. Spinelli as special representative,

Having taken note of the written observations of the Administering Authority (T/OBS.11/19) as well as of the oral statement of the special representative (T/C.2/SR.45),

Having taken note of the relevant report of the Standing Committee on Petitions (T/L.339, section IX),

1. Draws the attention of the petitioner to the observations of the Administering Authority and in particular to the statement that only 234 persons, not 500 as stated in the petition, were detained for questioning; that they were not held more than the 24 hours prescribed by law, and that, of the 234 detained, only 50 persons who could offer no good reason for their presence in Mogadiscio, had no means of subsistence there and associated with persons of bad reputation, were repatriated to their places of origin;
2. Considers that under the circumstances no recommendation by the Council is necessary;
3. Invites the Secretary-General to inform the Administering Authority and the petitioner of this resolution in accordance with rule 93 of the rules of procedure for the Trusteeship Council.

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