PETITION FROM THE SOMALI YOUNG LEAGUE
DATED 18 JULY 1947

In accordance with Rule 85 of the Rules of Procedure for the
Trusteeship Council, the Secretary-General of the United Nations transmits
herewith to the members of the Trusteeship Council a communication dated
18 July 1947 from the Somali Young League concerning the operation of the
International Trusteeship System in respect to Italian Somaliland.
S. Y. L.
SOMALI YOUNG LEAGUE
Head Office: MOGADISHU (Somaliland)
P.O. Box No, 352.
Telegraphic Address: SYLMOG

SYLMOG:
Date: 18th, July, 1947.

To: THE COUNCIL OF THE BIG FOUR FOREIGN MINISTERS,
IN PARIS (France).
Copy to: THE SECRETARY GENERAL OF U. N. O.,
NEW YORK.

Sirs,

We, the undersigned members of the Central Committee of "SOMALI YOUNG LEAGUE" on behalf of all enlisted members of our Association and in the name of all Somalis, especially those residing in the Territory known as ex-Italian Somaliland, have the honour to address you the following few lines for your kind perusal and consideration.

It is now six years since the Somalis have been allowed to follow the voices and events of the world. Through these voices we know now that the United Nations undertook the war in order to free all oppressed people from the Nazi-Fascist yoke; to secure independence to those people who could govern themselves, while those who could not be able to administer themselves would be educated for a short time after which period they would be given complete independence; and finally that they would not be imposed on by any Government not chosen by them.

These principles of freedom for which the United Nations had fought and won the most terrible war, have been repeatedly proclaimed by the late President Roosevelt, Mr. W. Churchill and Generalissimo J. Stalin. Concrete facts of the good faith of these principles have been realised in Europe, Asia, Africa and other countries, therefore, we are confident that the same principle will be applied to us.

We further have the honour to inform you that the British Government had particularly promised - by manifestoes thrown from aeroplanes during the war operations in 1940/41 - that Somalia would never return under Italian domination.

Millions of human beings, who were under the Fascist heel, are tending their ears to rejoice or weep according to the result of your meeting and the consequence of your verdict for justice and progress or condemnation to perpetual servility and regress.

All Somalis have faith in you, Gentlemen, and in your Governments; they are sure that they will not be disillusioned by your decision and that - similarly to those people whom you have already rendered freedom - you will bestow them justice by granting their right aspirations which are: peace, progress and freedom. They are also sure that you will not give any consideration to any suggestion which might be proposed to you by any
Nation whose intention is to subjugate the Somalis.

We, herebelow express to you, Gentlemen, our most sensible desires which are:

1. We wish and request that Italy be NOT repeat NOT let to return in our Territory for any reason whatsoever and even for trade purposes; that which we had suffered during 50 years of slavery under Italy was even too much for the limits of human supportableness and sufferance.

2. We wish and request that the Administration of Somalia be trusted to the tutelage of U.N.O. with the guarantee that we shall be given complete independence within say TEN years time and with the right to chose any kind of Government which the Somalis will prefer to adopt. In case the U.N.O. decide that Somalia would be administered by a single Government, we request that a PERMANENT COMMITTEE of the U.N.O. be left in Somalia.

3. We wish and request that Somalia be not subdivided into many parts and under the domination of different Nations such as: British Somaliland, ex-Italian Somaliland, French Somaliland, etc. etc., but a united Somalia, a new Somalia which ought to follow, in future, the same fate and have the same history.

4. We wish and request that we be allowed to send our delegates to the meeting which will be undoubtedly held by you, Gentlemen, for the final decision of the ex-Italian Colonies so that we may express again our views and present our wishes to the meeting in question.

Thank you.

Yours,

THE PRESIDENT

(signed)

(HAJI MOHAMED HUSSEIN)

THE VICE PRESIDENT

(signed)

(ALI SHIDO ABADI)

THE SECRETARY GENERAL

(signed)

(ABDULLAHI ISSA MOHAMUD)

THE MEMBERS

(signed)

(AHMED SHIRE EGAH)

(signed)

(DAHIR HAJI OSMAN SHERMARKE)

(signed)

(YASSIN OSMAN YUSUF)

(signed)

(SHEIKH ISSA MOHAMMED)

(signed)

(AHMED ADDAVE HUSSEIN)

(signed)

(OSMAN SHEIKH MAHOW MALAK)

(signed)

(MOHAMED AHMED EIMI)

(signed)

(SHEIKH MOHAMED OSMAN)

(signed)

(ALI MAALIM MOHAMUD)

(signed)

(SHEIKH MOHAMD MOHAMED)

(signed)

(ALI OSMAN)

(signature illegible)