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Somalia

7 Sept. 1959

Extract from a Report dat. 7 Sept.-59
from Cebe-Haberky, Princip. Secy U. N.
Advisory Council for Somaliland

Extract from a Report dated 7 September 1959 from
Cebe-Habersky, Principal Secretary
UN Advisory Council for Somaliland

Motion for the early attainment of Independence adopted by the Legislative Assembly. The text of the Motion as approved by the Legislative Assembly is annexed together with the reply issued by Mr. Folchi, from the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and the telegramme sent by the Somali Prime Minister.

The original motion referring to the unsettled border issue was presented by Abdi Rascid from the SYL split group and requested the Italian Government to submit to the General Assembly a request "for the attainment of complete and full independence and sovereignty of Somalia possibly within 31 December 1959."

Speakers of the group referred specifically to threats by Ethiopia and allegations that Somalia is not yet mature for independence and that the Trusteeship period should be prolonged. It seems that the split group wanted to force the issue on the majority group with a view to prove that it is more progressive and national-minded.

The Prime Minister's majority group felt that it should prevent this initiative by presenting a modified motion which did not refer to Ethiopia and suggests the achievement of independence before the date set for independence "as soon as possible." This was then the motion approved by the Legislative Assembly.

Mr. Folchi's reply refers, as you see, to the necessity of implementing the recommendations of the Trusteeship Council. The last condition referring to the necessity "to define the relations between Italy and Independent Somalia" does not seem to fit among the prerequisites of Independence.

Although the motion has been passed on 25 August 1959, there is no sign on the part of the Somali Government or the Administration, that a process of speeding-up the steps connected with the transfer of powers would be seriously considered.

The Advisory Council has also no information that the Administering Authority would propose the placing of the motion as an additional item on the Agenda of the General Assembly under Rule 15. I presume that should the Administering Authority present the motion to the General Assembly, the latter will request the Trusteeship Council for comments and the Advisory Council

will be requested to comment. It seems that the Advisory Council would not do less than the Administering Authority and refer to the necessity of implementing the Trusteeship Council's recommendations.

It seems, however, at present that the action of the Legislative Assembly had exclusively motives of internal character and that it was not intended to provoke an actual speed-up of independence. This is also the impression of the Administrator communicated to the Members of the Advisory Council.

Question of border with Ethiopia: "Il Corriere della Somalia" reported on 4 September 1959 that the Somali Government addressed a cable to the Arab League Conference in Casablanca requesting that members of the Arab states attending the Conference should pay particular attention to the question of the border between Somalia and Ethiopia, which is of vital importance for Somalia, during the next session of the General Assembly and that the Delegations of the Arab states should receive appropriate instructions with a view that a final agreement on this question should be reached before Somalia's attainment of independence. I understand that the action took place without the knowledge of the Administrator, who did not like direct international contacts to be performed by the Somali Government without his knowledge.

THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF SOMALIA

CONSIDERING the United Nations General Assembly's resolution taken at its 250th plenary meeting on 21 November 1949;

CONSIDERING articles 3, 21 and 24 of the Trusteeship Agreement for the Territory of Somalia;

CONSIDERING article 4 of the Declaration of Constitutional Principles annexed to the Trusteeship Agreement;

CONSIDERING the ordinances of the Administrator of Somalia No. 1 and 2 of 5 January 1956 concerning the establishment and functions of the Legislative Assembly of Somalia;

CONSIDERING the decree of the Administrator of Somalia No. 1 of 7 May 1956 establishing the Government of Somalia;

HAVING HEARD the repeated official statements of the organs of the Italian State, both at the international level and before this Assembly, which are willing to give favourable consideration to a possible request of the Somali people made through its constitutional organs aiming at obtaining complete independence before the expiry of the Trusteeship Mandate;

CONSIDERING that the Administering Power, through the faithful and effective observance of the tasks undertaken with the Trusteeship Mandate, has enabled Somalia to reach the completion of its autonomous organizations and the improvement of its administrative structure before the time-limit set by the Trusteeship Agreement;

HAVING CONSIDERED the political maturity reached by the Somali people and the development of its free institutions which have enabled it to realize an effective progress in the economic and social fields;

APPROVES the following

M O T I O N

The Legislative Assembly of Somalia addresses an earnest recommendation to the Administrator of Somalia to inform the Administering Power of the unanimous desire of the Somali people formally expressed through its constituted organs, that the Italian Government submit to the competent organs of the United Nations

Organization the request for the attainment of complete and full independence of Somalia before the date set and as soon as possible, notwithstanding the provisions of article 24 of the Trusteeship Agreement, mentioned above, which provides for termination of the Trusteeship Mandate on 2 December 1960.[^]

(Signed) ADEN ABDULLA

Certified true copy
Dr. C. Fettarappa Sandri
Chief of the Cabinet of the Administrator

Note: The motion, presented to the Legislative Assembly by a group of deputies on 22 August, was approved after a lengthy discussion on 25 August 1959 by 65 votes in favour, none against, and 1 abstention.

A motion, requesting early independence "possibly within 31 December 1959" which was presented to the Assembly on 17 August 1959 by another group of deputies, was rejected on 25 August by a vote of 51 to 12, with 3 abstentions.

The Somali Legislative Assembly voted by an absolute majority a motion in which they asked Italy to examine the possibilities of an advancement of the accession to independence of Somalia, which had been scheduled to take place on 2 December 1960 by the Trusteeship Agreement by which the United Nations had originally entrusted to Italy the Trusteeship Administration of Somalia.

The Under-Secretary of Foreign Affairs, Honourable Folchi, questioned this morning at Palazzo Chigi, in commenting on the news, recalled that the motion referred to previous declarations of the Italian Government about an eventual advancement of the accession to independence of Somalia, provided that the Somali population itself expressed the desire for this through its own competent constitutional organs. In requesting the advancement, the motion

of the Legislative Assembly of Mogadiscio declared that such an event was made possible by the political, economic, social and educational development attained by Somalia as a result of Italy's fair and strenuous endeavours for the progress of Somalia.

The Honourable Folchi said that he was glad to confirm that the Italian Government was ready to examine the request for accession to independence of Somalia before the scheduled date; the terms and modes will naturally be agreed upon with the Somali Government, keeping in mind the obligations of Italy to the United Nations. It will be necessary to previously complete the plan to transfer the powers as presented to the United Nations Trusteeship Council, to advance the political development so that the first Somalia Constitution, at present being drafted, will be issued, and to define the relations between Italy and Independent Somalia, subject to subsequent ratification on the part of the respective Parliaments.

"But I repeat" added Honourable Folchi "that the Italian Government without a doubt is disposed to support the request of the Somali Legislative Assembly and sincerely hopes for a speeding-up of the phases leading to the conditions in which complete independence of the Somali people can be realized."