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Somalia

24 May 1960

Cebe-Habersky, J.J. (Principal Sec., UNACs)

- 1 letter to D.H.

Mr. Dag Hammarskjöld  
Secretary-General  
United Nations  
New York



UNITED NATIONS ADVISORY COUNCIL  
FOR THE TRUST TERRITORY OF SOMALILAND  
UNDER ITALIAN ADMINISTRATION

CONSEIL CONSULTATIF DES NATIONS UNIES  
POUR LE TERRITOIRE SOUS TUTELLE DE LA SOMALIE  
SOUS ADMINISTRATION ITALIENNE

Wintershild ✓  
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Gunn ✓

24 May 1960

CONFIDENTIAL

Sir,

I have received your cables 21 and 22.

I was happy that suggestions contained in my memorandum dated 17 May coincided with the intermediary line outlined in your letter dated 4 May addressed to the Prime Minister. I believe that it was wise to postpone the decision on two representatives until the political situation is more clear and maybe more manageable.

I arranged immediately a conference with the Prime Minister whom I saw on 23 May at 10.00 a.m. The Prime Minister expressed concern that he has not received your letter. He was particularly surprised when I told him that your letter was dated 4 May. A twenty days delay did not seem to be normal to him. He wished to ask you to authorize me to transmit to him promptly a copy of your letter. In a cable sent to you on 23 May I communicated the Prime Minister's request.

In a discussion which followed, the Prime Minister wanted to know at least in broad terms your thoughts of approach. I mentioned generally the intermediary line suggested by you. At the same time I emphasized the UN technical assistance role. The Prime Minister followed very carefully. The recent mission of Mr. Spinelli in Togo presented a good subject for comparison. The Prime Minister was well informed about Mr. Spinelli's tasks and mentioned that a similar approach could be envisaged for Somalia.

The Prime Minister agreed that the selection of the Resident Representative should proceed without delay and that his functions would concern exclusively technical assistance matters. He would appreciate to have the name of a candidate as soon as possible.

The tasks of your personal representative, on a short term basis, entrusted to prepare for you a report on Somalia's needs, could be usefully combined with the visit of your representative for independence celebrations. I am naturally doubtful that something more definite could be negotiated during the period immediately following independence.

Mr. Dag Hammarskjold  
Secretary-General  
United Nations  
New York

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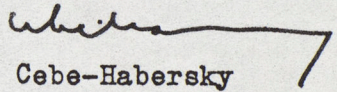
In my previous reports I noted that the interest of the Somalis will be concentrated on unification and political questions resulting from it, particularly the selection of a new government and the representation of the present British Protectorate in central government offices.

I presume that it will not be until the very end of September when it will be possible to sit down for quiet working meetings and agree on a TAB 1961-62 programme. It would be consequently more useful if your temporary personal representative would arrive here at a later date after independence. He could stay for independence celebrations only and return later.

The situation remains fluid. It seems that the Italian Administration is very careful not to divulge its future plans. The list of the Italian experts who should remain in Somalia has not yet been established. Italian officials have no information about their future assignments. Similarly the form of the Italian aid after independence has not yet been discussed with the Somali Government.

Accept, Sir, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Yours

  
J.J. Cebe-Habersky  
Principal Secretary, UNACS  
Resident Correspondent, UNTAB