

**Small files: Somalia
1957-1961, Syria 1957: Small
files: Somalia 1957-1961,...**

HS L 179:190



Dag Hammarskjöld's samml.

Somalia

March - July 1961

Azfar, Muhammad (Represent. of the U.N.
to Somalia, Mogadiscio)

- 6 letters to D.H. + 2 encl.
- 6 letters from D.H.

Secret.

UNITED NATIONS

OFFICE OF THE RESIDENT REPRESENTATIVE
P. O. BOX 24 · MOGADISCIO · SOMALI REPUBLIC

11th April, 1961.

Dear Mr. Hammarskjöld,

I arrived here on the 27th March. Incidentally, although I had intimated that my passage may be booked any day from the 22nd March and that I wanted to leave Dacca on the 17th March, owing to some confusion, no booking was available and I had to make my own arrangement and pay for the passage. The service being weekly, the earliest air booking I could get was on the night of the 25th, which I availed myself of. I had returned to Dacca from New York on the 14th March and I took the minimum possible time to pack up and send my personal effects by sea to Karachi.

2. I have finished my official calls on the President, the Prime Minister, the ministers and the members of the foreign missions, except the Russians and the Chinese; the Russians were too busy with their mission to find time till today. About the Chinese I believe the position is that not being admitted into United Nations we cannot officially recognise them or call on them. I may be instructed if I have to meet them. They intend to come to Somalia in a sizable number. It seems both the U.S.S.R and Red China want to make their presence felt in Somalia. The recent visit of the Russian delegation created some stir but not as much as could be expected and there was no tangible result but for a few points mentioned in the communique issued jointly. The question remains to be seen how far these pious wishes materialise. Talking to the Prime Minister, I gathered that he was in favour of a policy of nonalignment, with which one could not disagree, neutrality having become a fetish, no longer a fashion, now. I do not think Somalis, who are fairly shrewd politicians, will be easily taken in by anybody. For the present, what is likely to happen is a somewhat pronounced expression of anti-colonial feeling. The impression I gather is that it has been dinned into the ears of Somalis, and they have been influenced by it, that the colonial powers have pursued a deliberate policy of neglecting their education and training on proper lines in order to keep them backward. In fact, one is amazed to find an utter lack of personnel with any technical training among Somalis. In administration too there is a great dearth of qualified Somalis. If Somalisation of services is taken in hand, and I think rapidity is the key to the problem, a really big effort is to be made to train Somalis in every sphere. I am afraid it would be difficult to find quickly Somalis with adequate educational background to be put on the training programmes.

3. The Prime Minister and some of the other ministers are very annoyed with I.C.A. In fact, they are in favour of insisting upon the transfer of



UNITED NATIONS

OFFICE OF THE RESIDENT REPRESENTATIVE

P. O. BOX 24 - MOGADISCIO - SOMALI REPUBLIC

of some of their officers. I have been able, after some difficulty, to persuade the Prime Minister not to insist on this and he has accepted the proposal that all the ~~foreign~~ technical staff of the foreign missions may work with the Mission I am heading and plans for development may be put through this Mission to the Government for approval. It looks an easy enough solution on the face of it but there may be a little hitch for the Russians are also likely to ask for being associated with the development planning we are undertaking. I do not know what would be the reaction of U.S.A. Ambassador for I have not talked to him. If he objects to this it would create complications. Personally, I think it is far better that all the foreign aid giving agencies should work under this Mission to produce a well coordinated development plan, both short term and long term programmes in which each country assists, in consultation with the Government, to implement in the manner best suited to the interest of Somalia. Otherwise, there will be the danger of each country going its own way. If this scheme works satisfactorily, it will be a new ~~system~~ ^{venture} which may be followed elsewhere and may possibly reduce the tension one sees in Africa and Asia. I am anxious that the relations between I.C.A. and the Somali Government are improved so that the latter may make full use of the large number of technical staff and the resources the I.C.A. have. In fact, that is the only organisation ~~which~~ which has done some substantial survey work and is in a position to help immediately, which this country needs. I would like to know if I should proceed on these lines or drop the idea.

4. I will send a full report of my discussions with all those I have met after I have finished ~~the~~ receiving the return calls from the embassies. This will be finished in this week I suppose. In these return calls I discuss more precisely the interests which these embassies can show in the development of Somalia.

5. The problems of Somalia are manifold and above all it is ~~essent~~ essential to set up departments which function with reasonable efficiency. For the present, the position is that things do not move at all unless the Prime Minister intervenes. I am looking into this and I hope I will be able to give a report on this sometime next week.

6. U.A.R. Ambassador has requested me to participate in the observance of the death anniversary of the late Mr. Kamaluddin, a member of the Advisory Council and say a few words on behalf of U.N. The Prime Minister is making a speech. I would like to be advised if I should do so. It may be



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P. O. BOX 24 - MOGADISCIO - SOMALI REPUBLIC

better if the Secretary General were to send a message and I were to read it. The anniversary will be observed by the U.A.R. embassy on the 17th April. The deceased ~~xxxxxx~~ was an Egyptian national.

6. I am sorry for the poor typing as I am not an adept in it.

With best wishes.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'M. Azfar' with a flourish at the end.

(M. Azfar.)

ACTION

APR 15 1961

TO

FILE NO.

ACTION COMPLETED

INITIALS

APR 15 17:50 Control Room 2074

WUA010 62/59 PD INTL FR

CD MOGADISCIO VIA WUCABLES

ETAT ONU

ETAT PRIORITY UNATIONS NEWYORK

89 SEGGN REFERENCE MY LETTER 11 APRIL PRIMENISTER
PRINCIPAL SPEAKER EGYPTIAN SPONSORED MOTAMER ISLAMI
OBEXXX OBSERVING ANNIVERSARY KAMALEDDIN SALAHS ASSASSINATIONS
SEVENTEENTH APRIL STOP HE FAVOURS MY PARTICIPATION AS
UN REPRESENTATIVE AND SUGGESTED BRIEF MESSAGE BE HALF
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REGRET UN HAD LOST VALUABLE WORKER CAUSE SOMALI
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AZ FAR

1120A

UNITED NATIONS
1961 APR 15 AM 11:20
TELEGRAPH UNIT

UNITED NATIONS



NATIONS UNIES

P.O. Box 24

Mogadiscio, 2 May 1961

Dear Mr. Hammarskjold,

I propose to go to Mecca for pilgrimage. I shall therefore appreciate it very much if you will kindly let me avail of fifteen days of earned leave with effect from 19 May 1961.

You may kindly send a reply by cable.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Muhammad Azfar', with a horizontal line extending to the right.

Muhammad Azfar

Mr. Dag Hammarskjold
The Secretary-General
of the United Nations
New York

PERSONAL and
Confidential

Magadiscio.
27th June, 1961.

Dear Mr. Hammarskjold,

I did not write to you earlier because I had been expecting your instructions which I received two days before I left for the Haj and the Prime Minister and some of his ministers had been visiting some of the African countries, in connection with the conference at Moravia, and some of the continental countries, particularly Russia and Czechoslovakia in connection with development loans. I will not bother you with details of the agreements for these had been published already in full in papers before the Prime Minister left these countries. But I summarise below my own tentative conclusions, which I have been able to form after fairly long though informal talks with the Prime Minister, the Foreign minister and other officials and ministers who had participated in the discussions leading to the conclusion of these agreements. I have ~~had~~ also had a fairly long and illuminating ~~a~~ interview with the President of the Republic;

(I) The Prime Minister had some kind of misgiving about the attitude of the Italian Government about him. You are probably aware of the ^{fact} that last year the Italian Administration had ~~it~~ tried to intervene in the selection of the Prime Minister and had backed the present Foreign Minister for ~~the~~ the post of Prime ~~Minis~~ Minister but did not succeed. The Prime Minister had a feeling that the Italian authorities had been trying for one reason or another to delay the implementation of the agreement about financial assistance to Somalia. The first agreement was reached about payment of the entire deficit upto the end of 1960. Even though this agreement was arrived at last year in August, through the good offices of the United Nations, no payment had been made and the Bill authorising this and other grants for 1961 has not yet gone through the Italian Parliament. In fact, in his important speech which the Prime Minister was going to make in the Somali Parliament on the 30th April he was inclined to make a rather disparaging reference to this delay. I had requested him to reconsider the matter for it would put the back of the Italian Government up and might raise opposition to the grant which was being considered by the Italian cabinet at that time. We also persuaded the Italian (acting ambassador) to reassure the Prime Minister of the determination of the Italian Government to make good its promise. This was done a few days before the Prime Minister's speech and he made a reference to this promise in rather nice words. The matter had not yet been taken to the Italian Parliament. Italian cabinet may well have their own difficulties of procedure but the fact remains that a fairly sizable dues remain to be paid to the Somali ~~x~~ creditors who no ~~do~~ must be bringing pressure on the Somali government for quick payment of their standing dues. The Prime Minister had to cut down expenditure drastically or

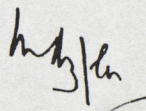
current budget. This was a courageous act but its psychological effect has been bad. Incidentally, he was very happy about the very prompt payment by the U.K. government of their share of the subsidy. He was particularly happy about the British government not allocating any specific sums for any particular purpose thereby leaving the Somali~~ix~~ government a free hand in spending it. This will have its peculiar reaction with which I would not bother you in this letter but discuss in another letter which I will write to you later giving you an ~~idea~~ of the problem of Somalia's deficits in future. What is important to note here is that in view of the quick payment by the U.K. the Italian delay does not carry conviction with the Somalis in general and the Prime Minister as well. This coupled with the delay in ^{the implementation of} ~~and the refusal of~~ the ~~USSR~~ I.C.A. schemes, to which I referred in the last letter, and the reluctance of the U.S.A. to undertake any liability to pay for the normal deficit in Somalia's budget, as far as I can make out, impelled the Prime Minister to seek assistance from the eastern block. I could gather from the Russian Ambassador in early May that the Prime Minister was more or less insistent on visiting Russia in May, which he found a bit difficult to arrange at short notice. Piecing these things together, it seems that the Prime Minister was anxious well before the Referendum, to be held in June, to get some assistance from other than the western block to be able to make a good impression about his ability to improve the economy of Somalia. He has been able to get a loan of 47 million roubles from Russia, besides a grant for a 100 bed hospital and a new radio station and possibly a few big state farms (the details are to be worked out by a Russian mission which will be visiting Somalia shortly). The Czech mission concluded an agreement two days back for granting to Somalia a loan 1,500,000 pounds sterling for purchase of plants and machinery from that country by December 1963. These large loans, at 2½% interest to be paid for mostly, if not entirely, in Somali currency ^{or goods} make an impressive showing. What makes the attractive to Somalis is that the interests are less than ½ of the rate of D.L.F. loans, which though sanctioned about two years back have not yet been utilised. What the Somalis do not appreciate are the difficulties quite natural in democratic countries in giving loans and grants for which there are a large number of claimants throughout the world. All the same, some thought need to be given to the special problems of very underdeveloped countries like Somalia, with very meagre resources.

(2) I do not think there is any indication of real change in the policy of neutrality. But there is no doubt that these recent negotiations have given a fair start to the eastern block in an area where so far it was quite unknown. ~~What~~ ^{It} is important ~~ix~~ to look out very cautiously at the actual terms of the contracts so that the low rates of interest are not whittled away ~~by~~ by higher charges for plants and that the loans are put to productive uses so that the country can repay the loans by increased productivity. It is here that the planning we are doing may come into the

picture. I would like to know whether we should give our candid views about the manner in which, and the projects on which, these loans are to be utilised. I ask this question because we may have to advise against ^{some of} the proposed uses and this may be misunderstood. Personally, I think this is necessary for all development loans must be subjected to an overall discipline otherwise planning will hardly have any real meaning.

2. The referendum on the constitution was held on the 20th June. It went off well and about 90 % of votes were in favour of the constitution. In the North the voting was in two provinces quite substantial against, and in two districts 2 to 1 against, the constitution. The official results will be published later on. The ministers and members of the Parliament are busy canvassing for the election of the President and the Prime Minister. Most work in Government naturally has come to ^a slow-down and things will continue like this for two or three weeks.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'M. J. P.', written in a cursive style.

UNITED NATIONS  NATIONS UNIES
INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

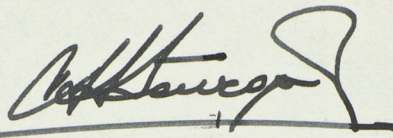
TO: The Secretary-General

Date: 30 June 1961

THROUGH:

FILE NO.:

FROM: The Legal Counsel



*W. ...
...
...
1-1*

SUBJECT: Somalia: Letter from Mr. Azfar of 27 June

*no comments.
Tis*

1. You have asked for my comments on Mr. Azfar's letter to you of 27 June. This memorandum is submitted pursuant to that request.

2. I have followed Somali affairs rather closely in the last year, and I think Mr. Azfar has presented a thoughtful and accurate analysis of the present situation. As I have mentioned to you before, the Italians, though wishing to retain their influence in Somalia, have been employing delaying tactics probably in the hope of forcing the Somali Government to grant them certain concessions. Their delaying tactics, as Mr. Azfar points out, may also be due to the fact that they have no confidence in the present Prime Minister. They have not forgiven him for defeating Abdullahi Issa, the present Foreign Minister, who was their original candidate for the post of Prime Minister. It may well be that the Italians were of the opinion that their inaction might force unpopular decisions on the Prime Minister, so lessening his chances of re-election in July under the new Constitution recently approved in the referendum, and consequently leaving the way clear for a new Government headed by Abdullahi Issa. Whether or not this is a correct evaluation of Italian policy, Mr. Azfar's letter makes it clear that it is what the Prime Minister thinks. It also explains his shift from a strongly pro-Western attitude towards the Eastern bloc which has taken prompt advantage of the prevailing situation. The United Kingdom and the United States, on the contrary, have not offered him sufficient support, and have remained rather inactive because of their solidarity with Italy.

3. Mr. Azfar's letter raises two points on which he might require further guidance. First of all he refers to the need to give some thought "to the special problems of very underdeveloped countries like Somalia, with very meagre resources." This is

clearly true. However, should we wait until a general plan for all countries in this situation can be evolved, or should Somalia be given earlier and special consideration? If you agree, as I feel, that there are advantages to evolving a particular policy in respect of Somalia, I would be pleased to suggest some ideas when both of us have returned to Headquarters. When I was in Somalia, the United Kingdom and United States ambassadors appeared aware of the particular problems of Somalia and were inclined to agree that assistance in their solution should, as a whole, be channeled through the United Nations. Italy did not then share that view and, given the present situation, any policy by the Secretary-General favouring over-all United Nations control would probably meet not only with the disapproval of Italy, but of the Eastern bloc as well.

4. The second point raised by Mr. Azfar concerns the need to scrutinize the terms of contracts of assistance to ensure that loans are put to productive uses, and that low rates of interest are not in fact negated by high costs. Mr. Azfar wonders whether we should give our candid views on the manner in which, and the projects on which, loans are to be utilized. He believes we may have to advise against some proposed uses, and that this may be misunderstood. A very real problem appears to be involved here, which may determine the real value of United Nations assistance to Somalia. I feel we should not offer gratuitous advice on loans already granted for specific projects. However, if the Government requests Mr. Azfar's views before the negotiation of such loans is completed he should comply. Furthermore, in as far as loans are granted for unspecified purposes, it would appear our duty, given the responsibilities for general planning entrusted to the United Nations by the Government, to express an opinion on the most advantageous use of the funds. If we adopted the contrary position our main task in Somalia, which, in terms of our agreement with the Government, is "to advise and assist... [it] ... in planning and development matters", would be nullified.

5. In case you agree with the foregoing views, I have prepared a draft letter to Mr. Azfar for your consideration.

ACTION

JUN 30 1961

TO *SG*

FILE NO.

ACTION COMPLETED

INITIALS

Return to Records Control Room 2774

WU CDO16 23 PD INTL

CD MOGADISCIO VIA WUCABLES 30 1700

ETATPRIORITENATIONS UNATIONS NEWYORK SEC GEN

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NEEDED FOR DELIVERY TO PRESIDENT BEFORE NINE AM

MOGADISCIO TIME SATURDAY

AZ FAR

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THXV

UNITED NATIONS
1961 JUN 30 PM 12:44
TELEGRAPH UNIT

Confidential and personal.

Magadiiscio

Dated the 4th July, 1961.

Dear Mr. Hammarskjold,

Stam on leave, Wednesday
The Independence Day was celebrated here on the 1st July with astonishing jubilation by the people. In spite of the fact that the election of the President and the formation of the Government are impending, the celebrations were much more spontaneous and colourful than last year.

2. Your message was highly appreciated and was given the top place in the newspaper among the messages received from other countries. The Foreign Ministry had reserved space for publishing it just below the President's message if it could be received in the ~~only~~ early hours of the morning of the 1st July. This was done on their own, without any suggestion from any of us. This is not at all surprising for I do not think there is any other country where U.N. is held so universally in such high esteem. They are conscious of the fact that U.N. has done a great deal for them and is assisting Somalia in a generous manner. There is no reservation about, or any criticism of, U.N. in ^{any} quarter. In his speech in April the Prime Minister had made in the Parliament a special mention of the special ~~ix~~ link of Somalia with U.N. and about your personal interest which was evidenced by ~~by~~ the fact that you had sent a personal representative. I did not communicate it to you then for it savoured of my trying to get credit for creating a good impression about establishing the fact that I was, as the Prime Minister had mentioned, "a true and sincere friend of Somalia".

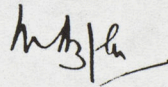
3. I was happy that I did not create a bad impression for I was agreeably surprised to find that not only the Government and the educated people but also the common man knew your name and mentioned it invariably with affection and I am very conscious, even somewhat obsessed occasionally by, the fact that I should do nothing which will impair the trust and affection people have for you personally. Somalis by nature are very hospitable and fond of entertainment. Also, I was given to understand that, not only had the President come to attend the parties given last year but had also thrown a big party last year on U.N. Day. It was, in these circumstances considered advisable to throw a party on the first anniversary of the Somali ~~Republi~~ Republic. The President who does not accept parties liked the idea of reception and immediately accepted the invitation. The idea of inviting the Somalis ~~staff~~ and the U.N. ^{are} staff was a good one. There/nearly 40 members on the U.N. staff. They will get an opportunity, which they rarely get, of meeting the President and the members of the cabinet and high Government officials. The latter will also get an idea of how large the U.N. expert staff in Somalia is. I hope the party tomorrow goes off well.

4. I had given you in my last letter a brief resume of the happenings in May and June and mentioned that there was no real change in the policy of Somalia. This is borne out by the speech made by the Prime Minister in his speech in the Parliament. I am enclosing a brief summary of it. I think there will be some

attempt made by the eastern block to intensify the propaganda against the colonial policies still pursued ~~xxx~~ by some countries of the western block with ~~the~~ the tacit support of some leading countries of the western block. People in Africa, and Somalia is no great exception, are not unlikely to ^{be} influenced by such propaganda. Particularly, the propaganda which will go down is the tardiness of the aid given by the western block as against the quick and substantial assistance given by the eastern block with particular emphasis on the educational and technical assistance to enable the Somali people to raise their ^{standards of} technical skills and living. The more I study the problems of Somalia, in particular and Africa in general, the more convinced I get of the immediate need of getting into operation an intensive training programme, specially the in-service training, and the Opex assistance. This fact has invariably been emphasised in every book and report I have gone through. This programme needs personal discussion ~~with~~ with the heads of U.N. agencies. I have found among the members of the Government here a realisation of the urgency of tackling this problem of utter lack of trained personnel in every sphere with vigour and imagination. If you approve of this idea I will devote my personal attention to this problem. The delay in the arrival of the Public Administration Adviser has been a great handicap in progressing this matter.

With best wishes,

Yours sincerely,



H. Dag Hammarskjöld,
The Secretary General
of the United Nations.
New York

STATEMENT OF THE PRIME MINISTER TO THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY ON THE FOREIGN
ACTIVITY OF THE GOVERNMENT.

The National Assembly has reconvened on 27 June for the first time since the constitutional Referendum. The Prime Minister expressed the Government's satisfaction at the manner in which the Referendum operations had been organised and carried out and at the results obtained. It was the first time that a Constitution submitted to a popular referendum had been approved with such complete and unconditional confidence. He expressed the Government's and the country's gratitude to those who had worked tirelessly to carry^{out} successfully the referendum operations. The order and the discipline in which it has taken place was proof of the efficiency of the police and armed forces and a guarantee of national security.

The Prime Minister then turned to the conference the African Heads of States held in Monrovia from 8 to 13 May. There the Somali Delegation had occasion to explain to the African delegates how the Somali territory had been artificially divided into five regions which now aspired to be reunited under the same banner. The question of the border between Somalia and Ethiopia had been brought forward following the incidents at Aiscia, Bio Anod, etc. when innocent Somali populations had been cold-bloodedly slaughtered by Abyssinian soldiers. The Conference had urged the Somali and Ethiopian Governments to seek a solution to their dispute.

The question of Jibuti had been discussed in private meetings with the Heads of African States belonging to the French Community. The aspirations of the population of the Northern Frontier Province had also been considered.

The results of the Monrovia Conference, particularly from the political point of view, had been very fruitful.

Following that Conference, a brief stay in Rome had allowed the Prime Minister to confer with the President of the Council of Ministers, the Hon. Fanfani, and to reaffirm the feelings of sincere friendship existing between the two countries.

When passing through Cairo, the delegation had been cordially received by the Government of the United Arab Republic.

The Prime Minister went on to speak about his visit to the Soviet Union and the very warm welcome given to the Somali Delegation. Referring to the statements he had made in the Soviet Union, he said the following:

" It was rather unpleasant for me to see that some of the declarations made during my visit in Russia have been, unintentionally, I am sure, interpreted erroneously. I am referring in particular to international news agencies information which have been reproduced by the "Corriere della Somalia".

It is not my intention to issue denials which might sound like justifications; I only wish to specify that in my speech in Moscow and in other places I have never said anything which might hurt or damage the political and economic independence of African countries members of the Commonwealth or of the French community. Also I have never said anything which might be in the least contrary to the expressed desire of neutrality of Somalia with respect to political commitment to international blocks. "

The Somali delegation had had fruitful contacts with the highest Soviet authorities. Medium and long-term loans and direct assistance to Somalia had been discussed and a common point of view had been expressed on the most important domestic and international problems.

In Czechoslovakia also the delegation had been received with the greatest cordiality; arrangements for loans amounting to So. Sh. 30 million had been concluded and signed soon after the delegation's return to Somalia.

On its way back, the delegation had stopped in Cairo where it had met with President Nasser.

Somalia can count for the future on loans amounting to a total of approximately half a milliard. This will enable the Government to implement vast industrial and agricultural projects which would provide work for a large number of unemployed and raise the general standard of living of the population.

Finally, the Prime Minister had received from the Italian and British Ambassadors confirmation that their countries would subsidise the ordinary and extraordinary budget of Somalia.

The Ambassador of the United States on his part had assured the Prime Minister that his country would fulfil its engagements with respect to the construction of the port of Chisimaio and the Ambassador of the German Federal Republic had stated that in addition to the loan of So. Sh. 5 million, his Government was ready to finance other projects for the development of Somali economy.

UNITED NATIONS

Press Services
Office of Public Information
United Nations, N.Y.

(For use of information media -- not an official record)

Press Release SG/1014
3 March 1961

SECRETARY-GENERAL APPOINTS
REPRESENTATIVE TO SOMALIA

Secretary-General Dag Hammarskjold announced today the appointment of Muhammad Azfar of Pakistan as representative to Somalia. The appointment has been made at the request of the Government of Somalia.

The role of the representative will be to head a mission of four experts in the economic, financial, public administration and legal fields. This mission will advise and assist the Somali Government in planning and development matters.

Mr. Azfar is expected to arrive in Mogadiscio in the latter half of March.

He has been serving as an official of the Government of Pakistan, most recently as Chief Secretary (head of civil administration) of the Government of East Pakistan.

Mr. Azfar was born in Benares, India, in April 1909. He was graduated from the University of Allahabad in economics, politics and English in 1929 and obtained his M.A. in 1931. In the same year he also obtained his LL.B. and then spent two years at Oxford in postgraduate studies.

In 1933 he joined the Indian Civil Service. After holding a series of responsible posts in the former Government of British India, Mr. Azfar was appointed Joint Secretary for Commerce, Labor and Industries in East Pakistan when Pakistan became independent in 1947.

Between November 1948 and December 1954 Mr. Azfar was Home Secretary to the Government of East Pakistan. In January 1955 he was appointed Political Resident to the Northern areas and Joint Secretary, Ministry of Kashmir Affairs.

Mr. Azfar was Secretary of the Election Commission from November 1956 until his appointment as Chief Secretary to the Government of East Pakistan in November 1958, a post he held until January of this year.

The Secretary-General's Personal Representative to Somalia was made an Officer of the Order of the British Empire (OBE) in 1946 and was decorated with the Sitara-e-Pakistan in 1960.

Mr. Azfar is married and has three sons.

* * * * *

Note: The UN sent a technical assistance team of six experts to Somalia in June 1960 to provide aid in the fields of statistics, development planning, housing, town planning and construction, and photogrammetry.

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CONFIRMATION COPY
OF MESSAGE DISPATCHED

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ETAT

UNATIONS

MOGADISCIO (SOMALIA)

117 AZFAR OF COURSE YOU HAVE PERMISSION TO TAKE LEAVE FOR FEW
DAYS FOR PROPOSED PILGRIMAGE AS REQUESTED IN YOUR LETTER OF
2 MAY 1961

SECRETARY GENERAL

COL 117 2 1961

4537NY UNATIONS
CLR
RCVD NR 7 3:52P SA TU

1961
MAY -4 PM 4:51
TELEGRAPH UNIT
UNITED NATIONS

CONFIDENTIAL

8 May 1961

Dear Mr. Azfar,

Thank you for your informative letter of 11 April. You will have received my cabled reply to the proposal made in paragraph 3 thereof. However, I would like to take this opportunity to give a fuller explanation of my reply, and to set out my views on some of the other points raised by your letter.

I want to refer first to a question of United Nations protocol. We do not want to give the impression that the United Nations is attempting to establish itself in the position of yet another embassy in Mogadiscio with the functions of such. The post of Representative of the Secretary-General is thus in a category by itself. Every effort should be made to avoid conveying the impression that it is to be exactly equated with the post of the head of a diplomatic mission accredited to Mogadiscio, or that my Representative is necessarily required to follow certain of the practices accepted among diplomatic missions. While, therefore, it is most useful that you should establish personal contacts with the heads of diplomatic missions in Mogadiscio, some of whom will no doubt have an important part to play in assisting Somalia at this stage of its development, such contacts should be of an informal rather than "official" character. The policy just explained would be fully in accordance with your role as my Representative in Somalia, where your chief function is to act as adviser to the Government in the fields agreed upon, rather than to negotiate on a formal plane with the representatives of States. Such formal negotiation may only be undertaken at the request of the Government and with my approval.

Mr. Muhammad Azfar
Representative of the Secretary-General
of the United Nations
c/o Resident Representative of the United Nations
Technical Assistance Board
Post Office Box 24
Mogadiscio, Republic of Somalia

You have raised the question of the attitude you should adopt towards the representatives of the Government of the People's Republic of China in Mogadiscio. As that Government does not presently represent China at the United Nations you are completely correct in not visiting its mission on your own initiative. However, should members of that mission meet you, or call on you informally, I am sure you understand that you should receive them and that the attitude to adopt is one of tact and reserve.

I would now like to say a few words in explanation of my cabled reply to you concerning the proper approach for us to adopt regarding bilateral programmes of assistance. Such programmes have been contemplated there from the beginning. In this field, as you will recall, it has been agreed by the United Nations and the Government of Somalia that our Mission may "at the request of the Government, study questions relating to the coordination of technical assistance that may be provided to the Republic by various sources at the operational level". Our function is thus to advise and co-ordinate, not to intervene or direct. Our responsibilities in the field of coordination of course require that we should keep ourselves informed of bilateral programmes. As I said in my cable, there may also be specific projects or fields of activity where we may work in cooperation with such programmes, but this is about as far as we can go. If we got too involved with them some of the suspicion with which many such programmes are viewed in the eyes of African countries, because of the fear of "strings", may transfer to our operations also.

I have noted with interest your comments on the present political trends in Somalia. I most thoroughly agree with your view that every effort should be made to train Somalis as quickly as possible to fill responsible technical and administrative posts. I hope you will keep me fully and regularly informed of developments in the political and economic

fields, and that you will consult me before taking any specific action with political significance.

Yours sincerely,

Dag Hammarskjöld
Secretary-General

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UNATIONS

MOGADISCIO (SOMALIA)

149 IMMEDIATE

FOR AZFAR. RE CELEBRATIONS OF INDEPENDENCE. PLEASE TRANSMIT

FOLLOWING MESSAGE TO PRESIDENT ON MY BEHALF: QUOTE ON THE FIRST ANNIVERSARY OF THE REPUBLIC OF SOMALIA, IT GIVES ME THE GREATEST PLEASURE TO EXTEND THE WARMEST CONGRATULATIONS TO YOUR EXCELLENCY AND TO

P2

THE GOVERNMENT AND PEOPLE OF SOMALIA ON BEHALF OF THE UN AS WELL AS ON MY OWN BEHALF. ON THIS FIRST ANNIVERSARY OF AN INDEPENDENT AND UNITED SOMALIA, I AM MINDFUL OF THE FACT THAT THE ASSOCIATION OF YOUR COUNTRY WITH THE UN GOES BACK TO MORE THAN

P3

A DECADE. ALTHOUGH THE CONTRIBUTION WHICH THE UN HAS MADE TO SOMALIA DURING THESE YEARS HAS BEEN MODEST, IT MUST BE REGARDED AS A TOKEN OF THE SPECIAL INTEREST WHICH THE UN CONTINUES TO TAKE IN THE WELFARE OF THE SOMALI PEOPLE. MANY PROBLEMS REMAIN YET TO

P4/47/45

BE SOLVED, BUT THE ACCOMPLISHMENT OF THE FIRST YEAR OF INDEPENDENCE GIVES ASSURANCE THAT SOMALIA AND ITS PEOPLE WILL MOVE TOWARDS AN EVER BRIGHTER FUTURE. AS SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE UNITED NATIONS, I CAN ASSURE YOUR EXCELLENCY OF MY FULLEST COOPERATION UNQUOTE

HAMMARSKJOLD

COL 149

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D R A F T

Dear Mr. Azfar,

Thank you for your most informative letter of June 27th. It conveys a clear picture of the situation in Somalia. I look forward to receiving your further letter on the problem of Somalia's budget deficits.

You have pointed to the need of giving special attention to the particular problems of very under-developed countries like Somalia with extremely limited resources. This is a matter which we have under study, and on which I will communicate with you further. I wonder, however, if some of the under-developed countries concerned should not take a certain measure of the initiative in this themselves?

You have also pointed to the need for scrutinizing the terms of contracts of assistance with Somalia, to ensure loans are put to productive uses and that low rates of interest are not in fact negated by high costs. In this connexion, you have requested my views on the extent to which you should give your candid views on the manner in which, and the projects on which, loans are to be utilized. I feel we might be particularly misunderstood if we were to express opinions, on our own initiative, about loans already granted for specific purposes. However, it would be most useful for you to express frank opinions on any projected loans for specific purposes, if requested to do so by the Government, in the course of the negotiation of the loan. Furthermore, in as far as loans are granted for unspecified purposes, it would appear the duty of the United Nations, given the responsibilities for general planning entrusted to it by the Government, to express its honest opinion on the most advantageous use of loans. Any other course of action might well nullify the main task of the Mission of Experts in Somalia which, as defined in our Agreement with the Government, is "to advise and assist the Government in planning and development matters".

Yours sincerely,

Dag Hammarskjold
Secretary-General

8 July 1961

Dear Mr. Azfar,

I want to thank you for your personal letter of 4 July. I am pleased indeed that public and governmental opinion in Somalia remain so positively oriented toward the UN. In this connexion, it is of substantive importance that my modest congratulatory message of 1 July should be given prominence.

In view of the overall struggle now surrounding the UN, as well as its structure, it is of course important that the goodwill of the Somali Government and people be fostered and maintained. I know that you and your staff will do all that it can in that direction.

I agree with you that more energetic measures in the technical assistance field are necessary and I indeed hope that, as you suggest, you will give your special attention to this question. During my brief visit to Geneva, in the course of the following week, I shall discuss this question with David Owen and others.

Thanking you for your informative report, I am, with best wishes,

Yours sincerely,

Dag Hammarskjöld

Mr. Azfar
Resident Representative
Technical Assistance Board
P.O.Box 24
Mogadiscio,
Somali Republic