

COMMUNICATIONS CONCERNING RELATIONS BETWEEN SOMALIA AND FRENCH SOMALILAND

In a letter to the President of the Security Council dated 16 June 1967, the representative of Somalia charged that the French Somaliland authorities had expelled inhabitants of the territory for the purpose of influencing a referendum (scheduled for 19 March 1967) in French Somaliland regarding the future status of this non-self-governing territory. This action, he charged, began soon after the French Government had in September 1966 decided on the referendum. He described the action as a systematic policy of forcibly expelling inhabitants of the territory into Somalia with the evident design of preventing their casting votes for independence and of providing a referendum result favourable to continued non-self-governing status for the territory.

By the referendum date of 19 March 1967, the letter continued, over 8,000 persons had been expelled. Moreover, immediately after the referendum, the authorities of French Somaliland carried out large-scale arrests among the Somali inhabitants of the territory, again under the pretext that those arrested were citizens of Somalia and not of French Somaliland. The arrested persons were forcibly transported to desert camps outside Djibouti. The Government of Somalia having been compelled to close its

border against further arbitrary expulsions, over 2,500 internees were forced by the French Somaliland authorities to cross the frontier into Somalia in a remote, desolate area. A considerable number had succumbed to exhaustion, exposure and hunger.

Over 10,000 inhabitants of French Somaliland, almost 5 per cent of the total population of the territory, the letter said, had thus been forced into involuntary exile in Somalia. This systematic expulsion of French Somali citizens, which constituted a direct violation of the sovereignty of the Somali Republic and of principles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on 10 December 1948), was part and parcel of a policy aimed at changing the ethnic balance and character of French Somaliland. As efforts to induce the French Government to arrange for the return of the vast majority of those expelled who were French Somali citizens had thus far been unsuccessful, the Government of Somalia was therefore compelled to bring the serious situation formally to the attention of the Security Council in accordance with Article 35, paragraph 1, of the Charter. (For text of Article 35, see APPENDIX II.)

(See also pp. 664-67.)

DOCUMENTARY REFERENCES

S/7992. Letter of 16 June 1967 from Somalia.
A/6702 and Corr.1. Report of Security Council to
General Assembly, Chapter 33.

CHAPTER VII

QUESTIONS RELATING TO ASIA AND THE FAR EAST

THE REPRESENTATION OF CHINA IN THE UNITED NATIONS

The question of the "Restoration of the Lawful Rights of the People's Republic of China in the United Nations" was included in the agenda of the twenty-second (1967) session of the General Assembly, at the request of Albania, Algeria, Cambodia, the Congo (Brazzaville), Cuba, Guinea, Mali, Romania and Syria.

In an explanatory memorandum of 8 September 1967 accompanying their request, they stated that the restoration of the lawful rights of the People's Republic of China in the United Nations, and in all its subsidiary bodies, and the recognition of the representatives of that Government as the sole legitimate represen-