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PETITION FROM MAU'U ALOFI A. PEREIRA  
CONCERNING WESTERN SAMOA

(Circulated in accordance with rule 85 of the rules  
of procedure of the Trusteeship Council)

Note by the Secretariat: This communication was  
transmitted to the Secretary-General by the United  
Nations Visiting Mission to Western Samoa, 1959.

C/-Secretariat Department,  
Apia.

13th April 1959.

The Principal Secretary,  
U.N. Visiting Mission, 1/  
Casino Hotel,  
S O G I.

Dear Sir,

You will recollect our conversation at Aleipata on 3rd April 1959 in re the question of 'overseas training' for those in the Service of the Government of Western Samoa. You were good enough to indicate to me then that I should submit my case in writing. I respectfully therefore wish to say that I would be grateful for some consideration on my behalf to be allowed to undergo a period of 'study' in New Zealand or in some other country of the United Nations groups. I am anxious to broaden my experience and gain additional knowledge in community development and local government.

You are no doubt aware of the fact that Samoa is seeking self-government, and that according to the latest developments, Samoa would be granted Cabinet Government in early 1960, and that Samoans are expected to take over somewhere in 1961. This would mean, Samoan themselves will be expected to run their own Government and, therefore, will be required to have sufficient qualified natives to cope with the task lie ahead.

1/ United Nations Visiting Mission to Western Samoa, 1959.

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Samoa at present, has its education at its highest level in history (Form V) which you will agree is very low in standard to produce materials qualified to run a self government. On the other hand, overseas trained Samoans are very limited and will be far from sufficient to handle the Government of Samoa when the time comes. It is therefore, very essential to have enough Samoans trained overseas directly or indirectly to return to Samoa and help in putting its future Government of Samoa into better shape.

This was my reason to apply to enter New Zealand which, unfortunately has been declined. My application was supported wholehearted by the Minister of District Affairs, the Secretary of District Affairs and even the Secretariat Department in view of the fact that further training in New Zealand more or less along the line of my present position with the Western Samoa Public Service would be greatly needed by the Government of Western Samoa in the future. Furthermore, there are no Samoans trained either in Samoa or anywhere else in the world on District Affairs matters.

I have heard that the Indian Government had offered a scholarship to students from Trust Territories to study social developments in India. I do not know whether or not this scholarship was offered to students from Western Samoa. Scholarships on such subjects are just what I wish to take up overseas, and if it is not too late, I would like to ask that I be considered as one of the candidates for this study in India. Any assistance to enable me obtain the extra experience and knowledge I need will be most appreciated.

Trusting you will be able to assist me, I beg to remain.

Yours faithfully,  
..... (illegible)

(Mau'u) Alofi A. Pereira  
Water Supply Inspector  
District Affairs.

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