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PETITION FROM THE COMMITTEE OF AFRICAN ORGANISATIONS  
CONCERNING TANGANYIKA

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12 August 1958

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The Secretary General,  
The United Nations,  
New York.

Your Excellency,

We wish to draw your attention to the way in which the Government of  
Tanganyika has deceived the visiting Commission of the Trusteeship Council.

In Paragraph 98 of the Report of the U.N. Visiting Mission to Trust  
Territories in East Africa in 1957 (T/1345, 6.12.57) as follows:

"While continuing with its efforts to develop the present "Native Authority" system, the Government has been actively engaged, wherever possible, in replacing it by a modern system of local government based upon the Local Government Ordinance, 1953. The Ordinance provides for the establishment, wherever suitable conditions exist, of multi-racial County Councils and Town Councils as well as Local Councils, also to be multi-racial where desired and intended gradually to replace the existing Native Authorities. It is a feature of Government policy, however, that the establishment of these modern institutions of local government should be dependent upon the general wishes of the communities concerned and they are not established unless public opinion is ready to accept this innovation."

The formation of multi-racial District Councils was presented to the  
Visiting Commission as a matter on which the opinion of the people would be

considered. Events show that it is the intention of the Government of Tanganyika to suppress any opposition to the formation of these Councils by force.

In July a crowd estimated variously to be from 2,000 to 6,000 marched from Gaita to the Provincial Commissioner's Head Quarters at Mwanza to protest against the formation of multi-racial District Councils. They sent three delegates from Mwanza to Dar-es-Salaam to see the Governor. The Chief Secretary agreed to put the delegates' case to the Governor if they would tell the crowd to disperse.

This they did but before the crowd, who were camped out on the sports ground, had time to gather up their belongings they were attacked by the police with tear gas and truncheons. Many were taken to hospital.

In addition to this demonstration of public opposition to multi-racial District Councils they people have expressed their dislike of the idea through their traditional Chiefs. This has resulted in the deposition by the Government of the Chief Makongoro and other chiefs.

It is apparent from this that the Government of Tanganyika is not prepared to carry out the assurance given to the Visiting Commission that the multi-racial Councils would only be introduced if the people agreed but that they are imposing them with considerable force.

We request that you consult with the Trusteeship Council on this matter and advise it to ask the Government of Tanganyika why the intentions set out in Paragraph 98 have been abandoned and a policy of forcing these Councils on the people has been adopted.

We are so concerned with the danger to peace in Tanganyika caused by recent Government action that we ask you to consider whether the Trusteeship Council should not send out a Special Commission of Enquiry to investigate the position without delay.

We have the honour to be your obedient servants,

(Signed) Dennis Phombeah  
Secretary

(Signed) (Signature illegible)  
Chairman

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