



ORGANIZATION OF  
AFRICAN UNITY

Secretariat  
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ORGANISATION DE L'UNITE  
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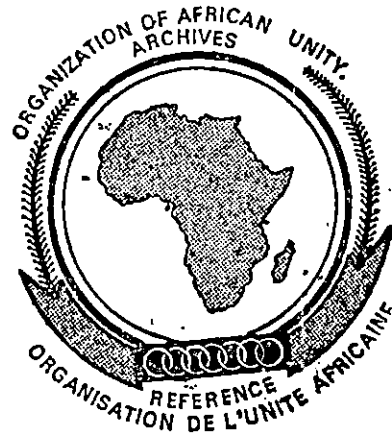
Secretariat  
B. P. 3243

Addis Ababa \* \* اديس ابابا

Council of Ministers  
Twenty-Fifth Ordinary Session  
Kampala, 18 - 25 July 1975

CM/654 (XXV)  
Annex VIII

REPORT OF THE NEED TO OPEN A REGIONAL SUB-OFFICE  
OF THE LIBERATION COMMITTEE FOR THE SO-CALLED  
FRENCH SOMALILAND (DJIBOUTI)



REPORT OF THE NEED TO OPEN A REGIONAL SUB-OFFICE  
OF THE LIBERATION COMMITTEE FOR THE SO-CALLED  
FRENCH SOMALILAND(DJIBOUTI)

The 24th Session of the Council of Ministers, when considering the report of the 24th Session of the Liberation Committee, among other things, discussed the application of the Democratic Republic of Somalia to host in Mogadiscio a Regional Sub-Office of the Executive Secretariat of the Liberation Committee to facilitate the acceleration of the struggle for the Liberation of the So-called French Somaliland (Djibouti). The Government of Ethiopia also offered Dire Dawa, a provincial town in Ethiopia, to host such an office should the Council decide to establish one.

2. The Council of Ministers took almost seven hours discussing the issue and finally reached the following consensus:-

"The Council accepts the principle of opening a Sub-Regional Office of the Liberation Committee in that region of Africa"

"The Council directs the Liberation Committee at its 25th Ordinary Session to study the practical modalities of the establishment of such an office and to report to the next Kampala Session (25th Ordinary Session of the Council of Ministers.)"

3. It is with this background that the Executive Secretary accompanied by Mr. A. Kusi (Translator) visited the Democratic Republic of Somalia and Ethiopia between May 18-23, 1975 inclusive with the sole aim of collecting information and any necessary data to enable the Committee to draw a balanced recommendation for the Council of Ministers to decide accordingly.

4. Before leaving Dar-es-Salaam for the two countries the Executive Secretary made contacts with the Governments and requested to be afforded the opportunity not only to meet Government officials but also leaders of the two liberation movements of Djibouti - FLCS and LMD based in Somalia and Ethiopia respectively.

SOMALIA:

5. On arrival in Mogadiscio on Sunday afternoon, May 18, 1975 the Executive Secretary was received by His Excellency the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, Jaalle Omar Arteh Ghalib and other officials.

6. On Monday May 19, 1975, the Executive Secretary had a meeting with the Secretary General of FLCS at the Head Office of the movement in Mogadiscio. He was accompanied by two other high ranking officials of the movement.

7. The discussions centred around the possibility of opening a Sub-Regional Office in that area. The Secretary General of FLCS informed the Executive Secretary of the following points which support the wisdom of establishing such an office in the Democratic Republic of Somalia:

- (a) Despite the fact that Somalia has a short frontier with the So-called French Somaliland (Djibouti), her border town - Loiyade on the coast is only 10 miles (16 km) from Djibouti, whereas the nearest town from Ethiopia to Djibouti, he said, was **Dawale** which is almost 72 miles (120 km) away.
- (b) That Djibouti being the capital, holding nearly 99% of the country's economy with almost 90% French Settlers and Armed Forces - is of tremendous strategic importance.
- (c) That there was a change of attitude on the part of Somalia in favour of the armed struggle having realized that the diplomatic and political approaches have failed to produce the desired results.

(d) That FLCS had no difficulty in recruiting people for training and recruitment is now in progress with the aim of getting 200 **cadres**.

(e) That the people of Djibouti have attained a very high degree of political awareness, and that the time was ripe to initiate an armed struggle with the help of OAU's Sub-Office in Somalia.

8. It was understood that up to now the host Government has been giving only financial assistance to the movement. Sometime back, FLCS had approached the Government of Somalia to allow the movement to broadcast to Djibouti through Radio Mogadiscio, this request was turned down. The movement has re-applied for radio broadcasting facilities and the matter is said to be receiving high level attention.

9. The Executive Secretary then enquired about the kidnapping of the French Ambassador in Mogadiscio by FLCS last March. The Secretary General of the movement explained that the exercise was meant to achieve two major objectives:-

(a) To draw the African and International Public opinion to the question of the So-called French Somaliland (Djibouti).

(b) To secure the release of FLCS militants from French prisons Omar Elmi Khaire and Omar Osman Raben.

10. He said the exercise had achieved its objectives and the two militants had been released and were expected in Somalia soon from Aden.

11. The morale of the people of Djibouti had been boosted and that they were demanding weapons to fight for their freedom. When the released militants transited through Djibouti on their way to Aden hundreds of people came out to greet them. The people again are said to have demonstrated on the arrival in Djibouti of the French Minister for Overseas Territories.

12. On the question of unity with LMD the Secretary General of FLCS said his party was ready to discuss the matter. But he observed that LMD was a one man movement.

13. On Tuesday May 20, 1975 the Executive Secretary held a meeting with His Excellency the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The Minister was accompanied by the Director General, Ministry of Foreign Affairs Jaalle Abdulrahman Jama Barre and the Director of African Department Jaalle Hashi Sheikh Musa. The Minister outlined the Somali Government stand on the issue and emphasized that the opening of an OAU Sub-Regional Office in Somalia would speed up the liberation of the So-called French Somaliland (Djibouti).

14. He was of the opinion that FLCS is a serious movement commanding sufficient influence in the territory and should be given every assistance.

15. On the question of Somalia's refusal to offer broadcasting facilities to FLCS, the Minister said that that was because Somalia had been engaged in diplomatic and political action for the independence of that country. Now that the situation had changed and France's response has been negative, the question of using Radio Mogadiscio was being considered at the highest level.

16. The Executive Secretary asked whether there had been any physical plans on the liberation process between the Somali Government and FLCS as a result of which some services were required which could only be provided by opening an OAU Office there.

17. The Minister said such plans could be discussed when the opening of an Office had been agreed. The Somali Government, he said, was ready to provide all the necessary facilities.

18. In reminding the Minister of the failure of FLCS to sponsor even a single candidate in the last elections, the Executive Secretary wanted to know what qualitative changes had taken place between then and now to make Somalia think that FLCS has the capacity to engage in an effective armed struggle.

19. The Minister explained that FLCS was the only true representative of the people of Djibouti. It is national in character and has no tribal tendencies. That FLCS is supported by an opposition party inside the country called "African People League." This party he said is demanding immediate independence. For fear of its being banned the party's association with FLCS is kept secret.

20. Thereafter, the Minister presented a memorandum to the Executive Secretary which re-affirms the Somali offer to host the Sub-Regional Office, but this time in Hargeisa and not Mogadiscio. The Memorandum is attached as Annex I to this report.

21. In the evening the Minister gave a dinner which was also attended by the Ministers of Agriculture, Education, Finance and Justice.

22. The Executive Secretary was the same night granted audience by the President of the Democratic Republic of Somalia, His Excellency General Mohamed Siad Barre who is also the Current Chairman of the OAU. The theme of discussion with the President has been touched upon in the main report of the Executive Secretary to the Committee.

#### ETHIOPIA:

23. The Executive Secretary proceeded to Ethiopia on Wednesday May 21, 1975 where on arrival at Addis Ababa he was met by Ato Yoftahe Dimetros, Ato Assefaw Legesse and the Chief of Protocol Capt. Assefa Asfaw. The programme of the visit was as follows:

Wednesday May 21,	10.30	Arrival at Bole International Airport
	11.30	Meeting with the Foreign Minister and other Officials of the Ministry
	13.00	Luncheon by the Foreign Minister in honour of visiting officials.

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Thursday May 22	08.00	Leave Addis Ababa for Dire Dawa by air.
	10.00	Visit the Office of LMD
	11.00	Visit Training Camp outside Dire Dawa
	13.00	Private Luncheon with H.E. Ato Ahadou Saboure - Governor General of the Harrague Region
	15.00	Fly to border areas to visit sites for border posts.
Friday May 23,	10.00	Departure for Dar-es-Salaam.

24. The first item on the programme was undertaken as planned at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs where the Executive Secretary had 75 minutes of discussion with the Foreign Minister, His Excellency Ato Kifle Wodajo. Also present at the meeting were the Permanent Secretary in the Ministry and three other Senior Officials.

25. The Minister explained the views of the Ethiopian Government on the need to accelerate the process of liberating the So-called French Somaliland (Djibouti) and hence the offer of Dire Dawa by the Ethiopian Government to host a Sub-Regional Office of the Liberation Committee Executive Secretariat to that effect.

26. The Minister said that faced with the fact that no movement with the aim of securing independence of the territory has a chance to operate openly; the people of Djibouti are left with no other alternative except to prepare themselves for an armed struggle. He noted that within Djibouti even those who hitherto had not shown desire for independence are now in a mild way demanding for it, without specifying any programme or timetable for the accession to independence.

27. On LMD the Minister said that the Movement was steadily developing into a force which will command considerable influence in the future of that country. It was in realization of that fact, that the Ethiopian Government is assisting in the training of LMD cadres for the armed struggle as and when it becomes inevitable.

28. The Minister added that it was necessary for the people of Djibouti to be allowed to determine their own destiny without any outside influence and that Ethiopia is prepared to accept and respect their decision, even though Ethiopia has strong economic and ethnic connections with Djibouti. However, those connections, he said, should not be construed as reasons for any claims.

29. The Executive Secretary wanted to know as for how long the LMD has been active as it was now being projected. The Minister stated that judging from past records, LMD has made marked improvement, especially in their present preparations for an eventual armed struggle.

30. The Executive Secretary asked since when actually had LMD been organizing itself? The reply was - about one year, with the assistance of the Government of Ethiopia.



31. Then the Executive Secretary reminded the Minister that when elections were held about eighteen months ago, both LMD and FLCS failed to field even a single candidate to contest, and the reason given was that it was almost impossible because of the French control all around the border. What chance has LMD now to recruit and infiltrate them to prosecute an armed struggle?

32. The Minister replied that LMD has many contacts, and when one considers the ethnic connections on both sides of the border with free movement across it. If the Movement decides to fight there will be no difficulty with recruitment, he added.

33. At this stage the Executive Secretary wanted to know what role the Ethiopian Government and LMD envisaged an OAU Sub-Regional Office would play.

34. The answer was that it would give direct assistance to the fighting people and as near as possible to the theatre of the struggle. But the Liberation Committee will in the final analysis determine the role of the office the Minister said.

35. Another question the Executive Secretary put was ~~an~~ the ability of LMD to mobilize the masses and whether Ethiopia had given the movement any broadcasting facilities.

36. The Minister informed the Executive Secretary that even though the activities of LMD were restricted by law in Djibouti but still the Movement is able to maintain contacts. There was every indication to the effect that the people's political awareness is high and the local Government will soon come under pressure to demand for independence. The Minister said that there are broadcasting facilities in the newly opened radio station in Harrar which LMD has not made use of. He said LMD can use the radio any time they are ready.

37. As to what was the numerical strength of LMD followers operating in Ethiopia as there are allegations that LMD was a one man show, the Minister said that the Movement claims to have about 5,000 followers in Ethiopia.

38. On the question of possibility of unity between the two movements, the Minister said that they expected the initiative to come from the other side - FLCS. He added that consideration must be given to the tribal elements and their frequent clashes. LMD, he said, has the following of Affars mainly - of whom about 250,000 live in Ethiopia (leaving only 150,000 Affars in Djibouti). Regarding FLCS, he said, it draws its support from Issas who are found besides Djibouti, in both Ethiopia and Somalia.

39. The next question to the Minister was whether in his considered opinion he did not foresee a repetition of what was happening in Angola if the two movements were left to wage armed struggle before forming a united front.

40. The Minister said that the problem might arise from the fact that LMD demands independence for Djibouti whereas FLCS seems to advocate the territory's attachment to Somalia.

41. After these discussions the next item on the programme was due and that was the luncheon. Invited to luncheon included the Administrative Secretary-General of the OAU, Ambassadors of Cameroon, Nigeria, Ghana, Tanzania and Egypt.

42. On Thursday May 22 we flew to Dire Dawa where on arrival we were received by a crowd of about one hundred followers of LMD carrying placards bearing demands for the independence of the So-called French Somaliland (Djibouti) and hailing the OAU and its Co-ordinating Committee for the Liberation of Africa. At the airport were also the Secretary-General of LMD Ahmed Bourhan Omar in the jungle uniform, the Administrator of Dire Dawa, Ato Samuel Teferra, and an elderly Gentleman who was later introduced to us as the Paramount Chief of the Affars - both in Djibouti and Ethiopia - living in Ethiopia.

43. From the airport we proceeded to the Offices of the LMD in the centre of Dire Dawa where the same group that greeted us at the airport was waiting with placards, and this time they were joined by many town's people.

44. In the Office we were introduced to the following gentlemen who are members of the LMD Steering Committee:

Hassan Bahdon, Humed Gaba Hadji Ali, Omar Moussa, Sayid Abdallah, Hassan Hirssi, Hadji Ali Okiy and Mohamed Loitta.

45. When discussing with the Steering Committee the question at issue, there was no new element introduced except an emphasis on the economic and ethnic connections between Ethiopia and Djibouti.

46. Regarding the suitability of Dire Dawa for a Sub-Regional Office, the Movement had the following to support the claim:

- (i) Long border with more than 8 border towns for contact, recruitment and infiltration.
- (ii) Every summer about 10,000 people from Djibouti visit their relatives in Ethiopia.
- (iii) There exists harmony between the two tribes living in Ethiopia. The traditional leaders of both tribes live in Ethiopia.
- (iv) The Government of Ethiopia has provided training facilities.
- (v) LMD maintains that Djibouti belongs to the Affars and Issas while FLCS claims it to belong to Somalia or Arabia.

47. On the question of unity of the two movements, the Secretary-General of LMD said that his Movement was not opposed to unity provided that the unity was for the independence and autonomy of the territory.

48. LMD submitted a memorandum to the Executive Secretary and it is attached to this report as Annex III.

#### VISIT TO THE LMD (REFUGEE) TRAINING CAMP:

49. After the discussion in the Office we made a short visit to the building earmarked to house the Office should the decision be made in favour of Dire Dawa before proceeding to the training camp outside Dire Dawa where we found a group of about sixty people in an out-door classroom. The camp is said to have been set more than seven months ago and the first batch of sixty refugees from Djibouti had already completed their training. Those in the camp were the second batch. Three Ethiopian Army Officers are handling the training programme using very old weapons in the absence of better ones. The Officers explained to us the training programme which, among other things, also included judo, basic principles of guerrilla warfare and handling of weapons and explosives.

50. From the training camp we were welcomed to a luncheon given by the Governor-General of Harrargue Region where the following local dignitaries were present:-

Colonel HaileGebregiorgis- Commander 3rd Division  
Colonel Abera Haile Mariam - Commandant Harrar Military Academy, and  
Ato Samuel Teferra - Administrator of Dire Dawa.

51. At the luncheon we were informed that due to unavoidable circumstances the flight to border areas that afternoon had been cancelled and hence we returned to Addis Ababa in the evening.

52. Some efforts were exerted for us to call on the Chairman of the Provisional Military Government before our departure. But due to a very tight programme the Chairman had, and the fact that we had to return to Dar-es-Salaam on May 23, 1975, it was not possible for us to make the call.

53. On Friday May 23, 1975 we left Addis Ababa for Dar-es-Salaam.

#### OBSERVATIONS:

54. Before coming to conclusions or recommendations it might help if the following elements were looked into:-

- (a) There are feelings within the two Liberation Movements and their hosts, that the political and diplomatic efforts to liberate the So-called French Somaliland (Djibouti) have so far failed to give the desired results.
- (b) Both LMD and FLCS, independent of each other, are developing ideas of launching an armed struggle to liberate Djibouti. Ethiopia and Somalia being hosts of the two Movements pledge to support them respectively.
- (c) There are differing views on the relations of the Affars and Issas. Somalia says these tribes live in peace. While Ethiopia says these tribes clash frequently. (There have been tribal clashes in Djibouti during the last week of May).

- (d) The Movements seem to be agreeable to discuss unity, though at the same time each suspects the intentions of the other or those of the host country of the other.
- (e) The Movements speak strongly about autonomous independence of Djibouti being what they are fighting for.
- (f) During the elections held less than two years ago the two Movements were unable to contest even a single seat individually or collectively. Miraculously, now both claim to be capable of recruiting and infiltrating cadres to start an armed struggle.
- (g) Both Movements claim to have the support of opposition parties inside the territory.

#### CONCLUSIONS:

55. In the light of everything and the above observations my conclusions are as follows:

- (a) Taking note of the adamant attitude of France in response to the wishes of the people of Djibouti - and Africa as a whole - to grant independence to the territory, there is need for France to be given a shock treatment. That could be either through a highly organized Civil Disobedience or Military Action.
- (b) Bearing in mind the antagonistic tribal elements in the territory, the launching of an armed struggle might be futile unless the question of unity is resolved.
- (c) It would be prudent to encourage the two Movements to talk on the future of their territory by themselves and decide on what course of action they would like to pursue.
- (d) Having decided on the course, and be it armed struggle, they should also agree on the base of training and possible areas to start operations.

- (e) Following (d) the relevant host country should indicate its preparedness to stand as a rear base bearing in mind all the possible consequences.
- (f) At that stage or soon after (d) the Movements, the host base and the Liberation Committee should sit together and outline the logistics requirements.
- (g) As a result of (f) the necessary recommendations can be put as to the advisability of opening a Sub-Regional Office.

## MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

791/OAU/38

NOTE VERBALE

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Somali Democratic Republic presents its compliments to the Executive Secretariat of the OAU Co-ordinating Committee for the Liberation of Africa and with reference to the Ministry's Note No. 755/OAU/38 of 7th May, 1975 has the honour to communicate the following:

Following the visit of the Executive Secretary of the OAU Liberation Committee, Lt. Col. Hashim Mbita to Mogadishu on the 18th May, 1975 and in the light of the talks which the higher Somali authorities have had with him, the Government of the Somali Democratic Republic wishes to reiterate its application to host the proposed Sub-regional Office of the OAU Liberation Committee to be created for assisting the liberation struggle of the people of French Somaliland.

In this connection, the Government of the Somali Democratic Republic submits that Hargeisa be chosen as the site of the Sub-regional Office.

The advantages of making such choice is contained in the Memorandum attached to this Note.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Somali Democratic Republic requests the Executive Secretariat to circulate this Note and the attached Memorandum to the Member States of the OAU Liberation Committee before the 25th Ordinary Session of the Committee to be held in Rabat, Morocco, on the 9th June, 1976.

To: Executive Secretariat of the OAU  
Co-ordinating Committee for the Liberation  
of Africa

Mogadishu, May 20, 1975.

M E M O R A N D U M

In creating a Sub-regional Office of the Liberation Committee in the Horn of Africa, the sole purpose is to secure the liberation of French Somaliland which is one of the last African territories languishing under colonial subjugation. It follows, therefore, that the creation of such an office should play an effective role in the intensification of the liberation struggle with a view to bringing about the independence of French Somaliland. For this purpose, the relevant criteria pertaining to the selection of the site of the Sub-regional Office should be given serious consideration.

In this connection, the Somali Democratic Republic submits that the following considerations support Somali's application to host the office:

1. It is imperative that the situation prevailing in the host country should be conducive to the intensification of the liberation struggle in French Somaliland. For example if the host country is unstable and pre-occupied with wars, it could hardly be feasible for the Office to operate efficiently and obtain the necessary facilities from the host country for the fulfilment of its mission. Furthermore, the site of the Office should not be situated in a town such as Dire-Dawa and other adjacent towns in the area which are located in a disputed territory.

2. The site of the Office should be situated in a country whose liberation policy with regard to French Somaliland is genuinely aimed at securing independence for that territory. This commitment on the part of the host country constitutes an important determining factor for the choice of the site of the Office. The Somali Democratic Republic has always consistently worked for the full and speedy independence of French Somaliland as demonstrated by its records at the OAU, the United Nations and at other international forums. The Committee will recall that in all these Conferences Somalia actively sponsored resolutions and declarations calling for the independence of that territory.



3. The geographical proximity, national affinity and population movements between the people of French Somaliland and the Somali Democratic Republic are too well-known and need not be elaborately explained in this Memorandum.

Suffice it to point out that the towns of Loyade, Tokhose, Zaila, Eil Gaal, Abdulkadir, Borama and Hargeisa are respectively 12 Kms, 25 Kms, 30 Kms, 40 Kms, 80 Kms, 120 Kms and 200 Kms from Djibouti town. The Government of the Somali Democratic Republic, therefore, proposes that Hargeisa, its second largest town, is best suited to be the site of the Sub-regional Office. The other above named towns in the Somali Democratic Republic as well as several Islands (10 to 20 knots from Djibouti town) in the vicinity of Loyade (which is right on the colonial border) and Zaila (which is 20 Kms from Djibouti) can be appropriately used as advance posts for the liberation struggle.

By way of contrast, Dire Dawa is situated more than 300 Kms away from Djibouti town.

The close geographical proximity between the Somali Democratic Republic and French Somaliland as shown by the location of the above mentioned towns (Loyade, Tokhose, Zaila, Borama and Hargeisa etc) generates vast population movement between the Somali Democratic Republic and French Somaliland.

Needless to emphasise the fact that the existing strong links between the people which constitute fundamental basis for the continuous contacts and unseverable ties provide obvious advantages for the selection of Hargeisa as the location of the Sub-regional Office.

4. The volume of trade between Dire Dawa and Djibouti transported by the French-Ethiopian Railway, should as a criterion, be discounted because the history of the liberation struggle in Africa has taught African countries that the trade between free Africa and colonial territories does not enhance liberation struggle, in this case French Somaliland. That is why the OAU has imposed economic and trade sanctions and boycott against the colonial and minority regimes in Southern Africa.

5. The sole purpose for creating the Sub-regional Office for the OAU Liberation Committee is to assist the people of French Somaliland to gain independence. Therefore, the country in which this office is to be established should not sacrifice the liberation of French Somaliland for trade and communication purposes. The liberation of French Somaliland over-rides any other considerations.

6. It is well-known and, indeed, admitted by the French colonial authorities, that thousands of people were expelled and continue to be expelled from French Somaliland to the Somali Democratic Republic. These people, so expelled, are determined to liberate their motherland by conducting operations from the Somali Democratic Republic.

7. The only effective liberation Movement of French Somaliland which has its Headquarters in the Somali Democratic Republic and maintains advance posts within few Kms of French Somaliland, is FLCS. It has also a great number of following inside the territory to be liberated.

Mogadishu

18th May, 1975

MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS  
ETHIOPIAN GOVERNMENT

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Provisional Military Government of Ethiopia present their compliments to the Executive Secretariat of the Co-ordinating Committee for the Liberation of Africa and have the honour to refer to the decision of the Council of Ministers at its 24th Session regarding the establishment of a sub-regional office to help the struggle for independence of the people of the territory of Djibouti.

In this connection it will be recalled that Ethiopia has offered Dire Dawa as a site for the location of a sub-regional office. The Ministry now wish to submit for the consideration of the Liberation Committee why Dire Dawa offers superior advantages to any other site in the region. The Ministry therefore have attached hereto a memorandum outlining these advantages.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Provisional Military Government of Ethiopia avail themselves of this opportunity to renew to the Executive Secretariat of the Co-ordinating Committee for the Liberation of Africa the assurances of their highest consideration.

sgd: Kifle Wodajo  
MINISTER

Executive Secretariat of the  
Co-ordinating Committee for the  
Liberation of Africa,  
DAR ES SALAAM.

cc: The General Secretariat of the  
Organization of African Unity  
ADDIS ABABA

M E M O R A N D U M

1. The sole justification for creating a sub-regional office of the Liberation Committee in the Horn of Africa is to assist the only people in the region who still remain under colonial domination, that is, the people of the Territory of Djibouti.
  - In considering the location for a sub-regional office the overriding criterion should therefore be the interest of the people. Such an office should be in a position to give direct assistance to the people in their struggle for independence. Thus such factors as proximity, length of border, population movement, trade contact etc., with the territory to be liberated, should determine the choice of site.
2. It is submitted that Dire Dawa offers the following advantages:-
  - (a) It is situated in the midst of an area which has frontage of 650 km. with the Territory of Djibouti.
    - It must be noted that this frontier is nearly seven times longer than the only other land frontier the Territory has with another African country. This is the territory's eastern frontier with Somalia which is less than 100 km.
  - (b) The distance from Dire Dawa to the city of Djibouti where the majority of the people of the Territory reside, is approximately 200 km.
    - Dire Dawa is a large city inhabited by approximately 50,000 people, with large ethnic populations of Afars and Issas. Many inhabitants of Dire Dawa have a large number of relatives and close contacts in Djibouti.

- Being linked by rail with the Territory and the port of Djibouti, Dire Dawa has a large volume of trade with the Territory. Much of the food consumed in the Territory comes from Dire Dawa and the surrounding areas.
  
  - The Ethiopian towns of Rahita, Manda, Afambo, Assaita and Dewele are located at about 5 km, 5 km, 19 km, 40 km, and 7 km. respectively from the frontier of the Territory. These towns which are linked with Dire Dawa by rail and road can be used as advance posts for liberation struggle. No other city of comparable size in the region can offer such intimate organic links with the Territory.
3. There is a very large number of refugees from Djibouti living in and around Dire Dawa.
  
  4. The most important and active liberation movement of the Territory, namely the M.L.D. (THE LIBERATION MOVEMENT OF DJIBOUTI) makes its headquarters in Dire Dawa and has several advance posts in the immediate areas bordering the Territory.
  
  5. The general advantages of Dire Dawa for the purpose of assisting the Territory could also be seen from a look at the attached map of the region.

LIBERATION MOVEMENT OF DJIBOUTI

P.O. BOX 347

DIRE DAWA - ETHIOPIA

MEMORANDUM SUBMITTED ON THE NEED TO OPEN AN OAU  
REGIONAL SUB-OFFICE TO HELP THE LIBERATION OF THE  
SO-CALLED FRENCH SOMALILAND ( DJIBOUTI)

To liberate the Territory of Djibouti, the Liberation Movement of Djibouti is determined to pursue the struggle on two fronts:

It purposes to pursue a vigorous political struggle in collaboration with the Opposition Parties of Djibouti. For a long time, more particularly during the past two years, the Liberation Movement of Djibouti has had close contacts with the opposition parties demanding the independence of Djibouti in the shortest possible time.

In this respect we have decided to widen our contacts with our Djibouti brothers in order to bring France to accept holding a referendum. We have no doubt that the concerted action by the Liberation Movement of Djibouti and the Opposition Parties will achieve positive results to lead our people to independence.

This exercise calls for funds which we can only obtain from our African brothers. We, therefore, request the African Liberation Committee to grant us substantial financial aid to enable us carry out these political activities.

Furthermore, the Liberation Movement of Djibouti plans

to engage in military action. We are fully aware that it is impossible for our movement to carry out a direct military action against the French colonial forces stationed on the Territory of Djibouti. This does not, however, prevent us from struggling militarily. The question is rather the choice of the methods and means of the struggle.

The landscape and climate of our Territory are not conducive to classical guerrilla warfare. We have, therefore, to engage in urban guerrilla warfare.

For this undertaking, we have our men and women to be organized, trained and equipped. The Government of Ethiopia has already offered us a training camp and free movement in their territory, especially in the border areas.

With the help of Ethiopia and the African Liberation Committee, we have established two advanced posts along the Ethiopia-Djibouti border. These advanced posts serve to train our militants politically and militarily for the impending battle.

up

We have also set/other advanced posts at Manda, Rahita, Doubti, Afambo and Assab. With these advanced posts, we intend to train our fighters in urban guerrilla warfare and send them to Djibouti for operations.

For this purpose, we have drawn up a programme of mobilization, training and infiltration of our fighters. Under the programme, some 300 to 400 cadres will be recruited and trained at the initial stage. The number will increase in the future.

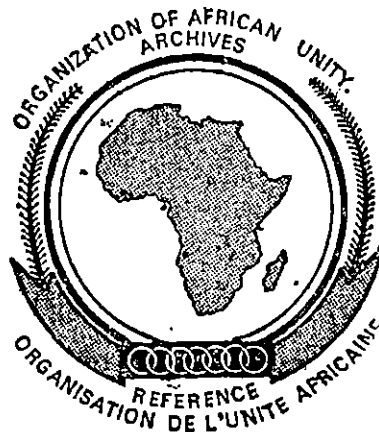
We need, therefore, every assistance necessary for the training of our fighters. We need in particular military equipment for urban guerrilla warfare, like light weapons,

explosives and vehicles for transportation.

We need also experts in urban guerrilla warfare for our training camps. We have already trained sixty fighters, some of whom have already been sent to Djibouti. We are now training sixty others and we intend to follow that direction, develop and consolidate our action in that field.

We therefore request the African Liberation Committee to grant us the material and financial assistance needed for the successful implementation of our political and military programme. On this assistance will depend our success or our failure.

sgd: AHMED BOURHAN OMAR  
SECRETARY-GENERAL.





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1975-07

# Report of the Need to Open a Regional Sub-Office of the Liberation Committee for the So-Called French Somaliland (Djibouti)

Organization of African Unity

Organization of African Unity

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