CONFIDENTIAL

10 DOWNING STREET

THIS FILE MUST NOT GO OUTSIDE 10 DOWNING ST

FILE TITLE:	SERIES
RELATIONS	SOMALIA / SOMALILAND
	PART: 1
PART BEGINS: 21 JULY 1998	PART ENDS: 7 October 1999
	CAB ONE:

LABOUR ADMINISTRATION

Part 1 of 4

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PART

CLOSED

DATE CLOSED	7 JUNE 2001

Series : **SOMALIA**

File Title : **Relations**

Part : **1**

Date	From	To	Subject	Class	Secret
03/06/1998		PM	(H) Bringing national reconciliation to Somalia:Letter from the Chairm	U	0
21/07/1998	FCO	FA/APS	Reply to President Hassan	C	0
27/07/1998	PM		(H) Reconciliation in Somalia-Letter of reply to the Chairman of the I	U	0
04/09/1999		PM	(H) Letter from President Egal of Somaliland	U	0
15/09/1999	FA/APS	FCO	Somaliland Republic	U	0
24/09/1999	FCO	FA/APS	Somaliland Republic	U	0
07/10/1999	FA/APS		To Mohamed Haj Ibrahim Egal: Forthcoming Visit	U	0

DCO

cc FCO

10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Private Secretary

7 October 1999

Dear Mr Egal

The Prime Minister has asked me to thank you for your letter of 4 September requesting a call during your forthcoming visit.

I am afraid that a call on the Prime Minister would not be possible. However, senior officials at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and the Department for International Development would be happy to meet you to talk about the future prospects for Somalia.

I know that you have an office in London. If you would like to ask them to call Mr Richard Hyde in the Africa Department (Equatorial), Foreign and Commonwealth Office (telephone 0171 270 2895), a mutually convenient appointment can be arranged.

Yours sincerely

Michael Tatham

MICHAEL TATHAM

Mr Mohamed Haj Ibrahim Egal

112022

Foreign & Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

24 September 1999

cc: JS
JP
PSOR
AC.

Dear Michael,

Somaliland Republic

Thank you for your letter of 15 September, enclosing one from Mohammed Egal, the self-acclaimed President of "Somaliland". I enclose a draft reply declining a meeting with the Prime Minister and suggesting a call on FCO/DFID officials.

Somalia remains extremely volatile, with factions in the south of the country continuing to fight each other, and being used as proxies by Ethiopia and Eritrea in their conflict.

The regional peace process is managed by the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), a body comprising of Somalia, Kenya, Uganda, Sudan, Ethiopia, Eritrea and Djibouti. We support its efforts. However, prospects for peace are slim.

The North West of Somalia ("Somaliland") has for a number of years remained relatively stable and secure. As president, Egal has the twin aims of international recognition and financial assistance. Along with the international community, we have no plans to recognise Somaliland.

On the financial front, the UN has urged donors to support a "building block" approach of development assistance in Somalia, rewarding regions where peace and security have been re-established. DFID is looking to support this approach by supporting the UN in setting up a consortium of interested NGOs to work with regional administrations to develop strategies for progress on the international development targets. Initially, this effort will be focused on Somaliland and Puntland.

Yours ever,

Tim

(Tim Barrow)
Private Secretary

Michael Tatham Esq
10 Downing Street

(T)

DRAFT PS/NO 10 LETTER TO MOHAMMED EGAL

The Prime Minister has asked me to thank you for your letter of 4 September requesting a call during your forthcoming visit.

I am afraid that a call on the Prime Minister would not be possible. However, senior officials at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and the Department for International Development would be happy to meet you to talk about the future prospects for Somalia.

I know that you have ~~an agent resident~~ an office in London. If you would like to ask him to call Mr Richard Hyde in the Africa Department (Equatorial), Foreign and Commonwealth Office (telephone number 0171 270 2895), a mutually convenient appointment can be arranged.

M R Turner
AD(E), FCO

270 2894

FLO

10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Private Secretary

15 September 1999

Dear Andrew

SOMALILAND REPUBLIC

I attach an "informal" letter from the President of the Somaliland Republic in which he seeks a meeting with the Prime Minister. I would be grateful for advice on the handling of this letter and, if necessary, a draft reply (declining a meeting).

Yours ever

Michael

MICHAEL TATHAM

Andrew Patrick Esq
FCO

OM

Top MT
JS
JPo
PB o/r
AC

بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم
وما توفيقي الا بالله

محمد حاج ابراهيم عجال

Mr. Mohamed Haj Ibrahim Egal

JSL/DALALKA/BRITAIN/009-034/999

September 4, 1999

SUBJECT MASTER

Filed on:

To: H.E. The Right Honourable Mr. Tony Blair
Prime Minister
The United Kingdom & Norther Ireland
10 Downing Street
London.

I am writing this letter to Your Excellency on my own private letter forms instead of that my official stationery. I am doing that to indicate to Your Excellency that I do not want to indulge in the presumption of addressing you in the name of an office which neither your Excellency nor the Government of Great Britain officially recognize. At the same time I am most anxious to communicate to your Excellency the problems of my country and the legitimate aspirations of my people. In 1960 Her Majesty's Government has granted us independence after one of the most friendly constitutional conference. Mr. Ian Mcload who was, the then, colonial secretary, has publicly remarked at the time that "if the all constitutional conferences were as amicable as that of British Somaliland Protectorate, I would have entertained a more sanguine hope for the future relationships between the metropolitan powers and their former colonies".

Soon after that independence we have united with the former Italian colony of Somalia which was also given independence as a United Nations' trust territory. The purpose of that union was to create a greater Somalia by bringing together the five segments into which the Western colonial powers and Ethiopia have divided the Somali nation. Unfortunately, just as the great powers have rejected Mr. Earnest Bevin's 1948 proposal to create an extended and a united Somali nation in the horn of Africa, the International community of 1960, in sympathy with the political imperatives of Ethiopia, Kenya and France have rejected any possibility of fulfilling the ideal of a greater Somaliland. With that forceful and final rejection, our union with the former Italian colony, has become meaningless and no longer

بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم
وما توفيقى الا بالله

محمد حاج ابراهيم عجال

Mr. Mohamed Haj Ibrahim Egal

inspiring. This disillusionment with a truncated union led to a conflict between the two parties of the united Somali Republic. As early as 1962 the first attempt to disengage has been undertaken by the people of the former protectorate in the form of an attempted coupe-detat by young British trained officers of what we used to call the Somaliland Scouts. That coupe was suppressed with ferocious brutality and ever since then it has become a tradition of the people of the South to regard the northeners with suspicion and hostility. Eventually the dictatorship of Siyad Bare had escalated that hostility to the people of the north to a brutal suppression culminating in an attempted genocide. We are still discovering in all the main urban centres mass graves where thousands of our people were buried after they had been summarily executed while tied together in groups of ten.

After the disintegration of the brutal dictatorship of Siyad Bare, the atrocities they have suffered together have forged a bond of affinity between the people of the north and we have used the strength of that United purpose to stabilized our country and to stablished a lasting peace between the clans of our nation. Today we have, in contrast to the chaos and the anarchy of the south, a stable democratic country with a two chamber parliament, a popularly elected executive President and a judiciary before whose courts an accused is presumed innocent until he is proven guilty.

We have achieved all this without the assistance or even the encouragement of the International Community. Several reasons are given as to why the International Community is ostracising Somaliland. The two that have a semblance of logic are, first, that this disengagement of Somaliland from Somalia is purely a Somali affair and that like the Ethiopians and the Eritreans before them, the Somali parties should discuss the matter between themselves and make an indigenous decision between themselves. We accept the premise of that argument, but unfortunately Somalia is still in a state of anarchy and chaos and we have no counterpart with whom we could discuss the matter. We have already waited nine long difficult

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Mr. Mohamed Haj Ibrahim Egal

years for Somalia to emerge from its anarchy. It has not done so and there is still no hope that in the foreseeable future Somalia would emerge from its present state of anarchy and chaos. The second argument is that the OAU charter sanctified the African borders and has forbidden the alteration of these borders under any circumstances. Your Excellency, the truth of the matter is that the OAU charter has sanctified the colonial borders of Africa and since we are now returning to our 1960 colonial borders, which are now almost a hundred years old, we feel that we are obeying the charter of the OAU and not violating it.

This is a brief history of Somaliland and I wish to have an opportunity to meet with your Excellency privately in order to explain to you in full, our aspirations and the texture of our society which has imbibe a great deal of British traditions. I will be in New York in the last week of September where I will be meeting the Secretary General for a briefing on the Somalia/Somaliland problems. The recent Secretary General's report to the Security Council was a very shallow document which glossed over the main aspects of the problem and which has completely failed to make any realistic proposals for future action. The report was drafted in Nairobi and it was designed to preserve the status-quo and avoid putting any blame on those mandated to deal with and solve the Somali problem. Some of the staff of the Secretariat of the UN saw the report for what it was and they are now helping me to see the Secretary General in order to brief him more truthfully and realistically.

I request that Your Excellency allow me to come to London for a brief visit sometime in the first two weeks of October and to grant me a brief and a purely private audience.

Thanking you in anticipation, I am your Excellency.

Your Sincerely,

Mohamed Ibrahim Egal

Somaliland Republic
Country Profile

GEOGRAPHY

Somaliland lies in the Horn of Africa roughly between the 8th and 11th parallel north of the Equator, and between 43rd and 49th meridian east of the Greenwich. It shares borders with Djibouti to the west, Ethiopia to the south, and Somalia to the east, and has a long coastal line which extends 460 miles along the Red Sea.

Area *GEOGRAPHY*

Somaliland is about the size of England and Wales with an area of 68,000 Sq. miles.

Topography *GEOGRAPHY*

The major topographical features are:

i. the low-lying coastal plains (the Guban) running some 70 Km inland with a very hot summer climate;

ii. a high escarpment running east-west parallel to the coast and rising to 1,550m at Sheikh;

iii. a plateau to the south of the mountains (Ogo) extending to Ethiopia, with an average altitude of 1,200m;

iv. beyond this is the Haud, a red sandy plain stretching southwards into Ethiopia, its altitude falling to some 500m.

Climate *GEOGRAPHY*

The country has a tropical monsoon type of climate. However, there are four distinct seasons: A main rainy spring season from April to June, followed by a dry summer season from July to September. Then there is a short autumn rainy period from October to November, and finally a long dry winter from December to March. The latter is the most difficult, usually hardly affects the animal herding rural population and to the farmers to a lesser scale. If the April-June rains fail the result is a draught that could kill most animals which have already been weakened by the December-March dry season, which also severely affects the country's economy.

Annual average precipitation ranges from less than 100 mm on the coast to 500 mm inland except for limited areas where it may reach 900 mm. Rain

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variability is very high. Hargeisa, the capital, for instance, with a long term average of some 400 mm has recorded variations from 209 to 810 mm per year.

Temperatures also show some seasonal variation. The winter months are normally cool with average December temperatures in the 60's and 70's degrees Fahrenheit, while the summer months are the hottest averaging 80-90 degrees in June.

▪ Population

The Country's population is approximately 2.5 million.

▪ Language

Somali - is spoken by all and is the written official language. Arabic and English are taught in schools and are widely spoken by the literate community. The Somali language is spoken by the inhabitants of Djibouti, Somalia, Eastern Ethiopia and Northern Eastern Kenya.

▪ Religion

Islam (Sunni) since the 7th century

▪ Capital City and Regional Cities

CITY	-	REGION
Hargeisa	-	West
Burao	-	Togdheer
Borama	-	Awdal
Berbera	-	Sahil
Las Anod	-	Sool
Erigavo	-	Sanaag

● HISTORY

The Republic of Somaliland is the first Somali inhabited land to gain independence. It first became independent on 26 June 1960. When Somaliland was just four days old it joined the Italian Somali territory which became independent on 1 July, due to popular believe that the union of the Somaliland and Somalia would lead to eventual union of Djibouti, the Ethiopian Somali territory and The then Northern Frontier District (NFD) of Kenya. No formal Act of union was signed. Somaliland reclaimed its sovereignty in May 1991 and comprises the territories of the former British Somaliland Protectorate (British Colony from 1884 to 26 June 1960). In 1969, the military took over the government and ushered a reign of terror

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and oppression which lasted for 20 years. The people of Somaliland took arms against the brutal regime and finally drove it out of their land in 1991.

POLITICAL SYSTEM

The country has a legislative assembly composed of two chambers - an elders' chamber, and a house of representatives - with 75 members each. The government is headed by an elected president and an elected vice-president. The president nominates the cabinet which is approved by the legislature.

The current president of the Republic is Mr. Mohamed Ibrahim Egal and the Vice-president is Mr. Dahir Riyale Kahin. The term of the current government ends in early 2002. The President was re-elected for a second term and a new Vice-president was elected in the National Conference which was held during November 1996 to March 1997.

ECONOMY

Currency

ECONOMY

Somaliland Shilling (SISh)

Exchange rate against the US Dollar in May 1997: US$1 = SISh3,000

Rate of Inflation:

ECONOMY

Current rate of inflation is: ***not available***

Import and Export

ECONOMY

Livestock rearing is the most important economic activity of the region. Mixed farming is practised in the Northwest and Awdal regions, with total arable area limited to less than 100,000 ha. Fishing is practised all along the cost, with main centres in Berbera and Las Qoray.

The principal exports of the country are:

- Livestock
- Hides and Skins
- Myrrh and Frankincense

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In 1996 a record number of animals were exported through the main port of Berbera mainly to Yemen, Saudi Arabia and the Emirates. Hides and Skin were also exported to Emirates. These were released by the government:

Sheep & Goats	2,372,676
Cattle	46,606
Camels	42,828
Total	**2,462,110**
Hides	51,500
Myrrh and Frankincense	8,190 Kg

The main imports are:

- Food and beverage
- Fuel
- Construction material
- Vehicles
- Machinery and equipment
- Chemicals and pharmaceuticals

▪ Natural Resources

1. Fisheries
2. Minerals of confirmed occurrence
   - Oil
   - Gypsum (*the largest deposit in the world*)
   - Sulphur
   - Gold
   - Lead
   - Zinc
   - Copper

● COMMUNICATION

Three private Telephone companies currently operate in the country, two of which have investment in the Capital and various other parts of the country.

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▪ Main Ports — COMMUNICATION

Berbera port is the country's main, where over 90% of all exports (mainly livestock) and import go through. Small scale exports and imports take place at Maid, Heis and Las Qoray.

▪ Airports — COMMUNICATION

KALAYEDH

The country has several airports; Hargeysa, Berbera, Burao, Borama, Las Anod and Erigavo. However only those in Hargeisa and Berbera can handle larger aircraft. The Berbera airport, was used by the Soviet Union during 70s and US in late 70s and early 80s, and has a runway which is as long as ~~five~~ 4½ kms and can handle all sorts of aircraft.

FAX : ~~HEA0~~
00253-210006

▪ Paved Road — COMMUNICATION

Road network in underdeveloped. In recent years there have been minor maintenance and resurfacing of damaged roads. New roads few kilometers in length have also been constructed in Awdal and West regions. Following roads are paved:

Burao	*to*	*Las Anod*
Burao	*to*	*Berbera*
Hargeysa	*to*	*Berbera*
Hargeysa	*to*	*Gabiley*

● EDUCATION

Before the destruction of the country in 1988, there were 219 primary, 19 secondary, and 9 professional schools and colleges in Somaliland. Among these were the prestigious Sheikh Secondary School, the first in the whole of Somalia, Ammud Secondary School, the nursing School, the first nursing school in Hargeisa and two technical institutes in Burao and Hargeisa. Total Enrolment was then 65,171. Practically all these schools were destroyed and contents looted in the war. But since 1991 the people and the government of Somaliland, with help of aid agencies, made great significant progress in rehabilitating many of Schools. According to the 1994 official statistics there are now:

- 177 Primary and intermediate schools
- 30,000 students enrolled
- 1,406 teachers

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HEALTH

The health system which was mainly urban based also suffered from the bombardment of the principal towns. But here again rehabilitation work started in 1991, and there are now, according to the 1994 Ministry of Health figures:

- 7 Hospitals
- 55 Health centres
- 39 MCH's (i.e. mother and child health centres)
- 1112 staff working in the public health sector.

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FCO

SUBJECT
MASTER

Filed on

10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

THE PRIME MINISTER

27 July 1998

Dear President Aptidon

Thank you for your letter of 3 June about efforts by the Inter-Governmental Authority on Development (IGAD) to facilitate the reconciliation process in Somalia.

Your letter was not received in London until after our Presidency of the European Union had ended. Austria, as the new Presidency, will be replying to you on behalf of the European Union.

We take a close interest in events in Somalia and are concerned at the continued failure of the Somali leaders to give a concrete demonstration of their commitment to peace. Although we recognise the role that could be played by traditional and community leaders in the peace process, we cannot ignore the faction leaders whose cooperation is essential for any peace agreement to succeed. Against this background, IGAD's efforts to coordinate and facilitate a solution, as agreed in the IGAD Ministerial Summit in Djibouti in March, are all the more important. I hope that the recent creation of the IGAD Liaison Group on Somalia will help IGAD achieve its aims. We will continue to support IGAD's efforts with our European Union partners.

Yours sincerely

Tony Blair

His Excellency President Hassan Gouled Aptidon

PS

cc: JCH
MC/JB.

Foreign &
Commonwealth
Office

London SW1A 2AH

21 July 1998

Dear Philip

Somalia: Reply to President Hassan of Djibouti

... The President of Djibouti has written to the Prime Minister (Attached). I attach also a draft reply: the President's letter arrived after the end of the UK Presidency - hence the draft is largely an acknowledgement. The Austrians will reply substantively.

Yours ever

Andrew Patrick

(Andrew Patrick)
Private Secretary

Philip Barton Esq OBE
10 Downing Street

July 1998

Thank you for your letter of 3 June about efforts by the Inter-Governmental Authority on Development (IGAD) to facilitate the reconciliation process in Somalia.

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HE Hassan Gouled Aptidon
President of the Republic of Djibouti

SUBJECT
MASTER

Filed on:

H.E. Mr. Tony Blair
Prime Minister of the United Kingdom and
Current President of the European Union
London

Dear Mr. Prime Minister,

I am writing to you in my capacity as the chairman of IGAD, the Intergovernmental Authority on Development, that held its summit conference in Djibouti on March 16, 1998. The Conference issued, among other things a declaration which contained the decision of IGAD Heads of State and Government to revitalize the process to bring national reconciliation to Somalia.

It is to be recalled that IGAD has been making strenuous efforts in recent years to bring the conflicting parties in Somalia together and had mandated Ethiopia to carry out this task.

Despite the many efforts made so far, the peace process in Somalia has not achieved results, the reasons for this state of affairs can be traced to the lack of resolve on the part of the faction leaders, the proliferation of external parallel peace initiatives and the lack of support by the international community.

We in the IGAD sub-region cannot watch on the sidelines while opportunities for national reconciliation are needlessly squandered because of

the combination of the above mentioned problems. That is why at the recently held IGAD summit we decided to act once again with greater resolve and determination.

We have decided to take the decision by the 3rd Session of the National Salvation Council of Somalia on amendments to the Cairo Agreement, as the basis for salvaging the peace process in Somalia.

We are also seeking to broaden the peace process through greater participation of the Somali civil society.

The IGAD sub-region cannot by itself hope to achieve all the goals it has set on bringing peace to Somalia. You are very much aware that the Somali people and the sub-region need the continued support and solidarity of the international community. To this end, the international community has been called upon to contribute politically, diplomatically and financially to the peace effort in general and specifically by directing assistance to regions where faction leaders and constituencies demonstrate a practical commitment to peace, stability and national reconciliation.

Dear Mr. Prime Minister,

As President of the European Union, I wish to particularly raise with you the important need for the European Union to actively support the IGAD efforts to bring peace to Somalia. As a valued partner in the maintenance of security and the promotion of development, the European Union is well placed to join us in the difficult task ahead. We are encouraged that the European Commission and the majority of member states in the European Union are already participating in the IGAD Partners Forum which has been set up to support our sub-region. But at this particular juncture, we need your support so that funds allocated for Somalia from the Lome Convention are released for use in the rehabilitation of those areas in Somalia in a way which is well calibrated to

reinforce the peace process and encourage the creation and the strengthening of constituencies for peace in the country.

I wish to draw you attention to the fact that we have decided to convene an international conference under IGAD auspices to maximize international community support. We expect the meeting to come up with an Action Plan on ways of reinforcing the peace process. The European Union's practical support for the conference would be of great value.

I am confident that with the solidarity of the European Union, our renewed efforts will gather strength in favour of peace and national reconciliation for the long-suffering people of Somalia.