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REPORT NO. [REDACTED]

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Ethiopia/French, British, and Italian Somalilands

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SUBJECT Somali Youth League

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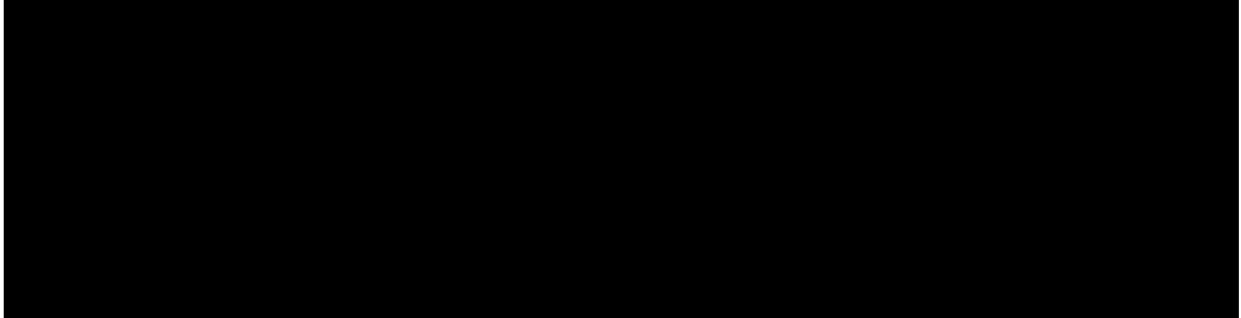
PLACE ACQUIRED 25X1A [REDACTED]

NO. OF ENCLS. (LISTED BELOW)

DATE OF INFO. [REDACTED]

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SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO.



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1. [REDACTED] the Somali Youth League until now has not caused any overt trouble, nor, apparently, has it been very active in French Somaliland, since the time of its founding. Members of the League constantly are coming into Djibouti from British Somaliland and often meet with leaders of the local Somali groups, but to the present time no disturbing results or trends have been observed to come from these meetings. The Government of French Somaliland plans to allow the Somali Youth League to set up an open club in Djibouti in order that underground activity may be discouraged and the League's connections and ambitions may be studied more closely.

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2. The Somali Youth League and other Somali nationalist movements in the region are not dependent upon outside influence for their existence and will continue when and if such influence or direction as exists is withdrawn. [REDACTED] There is a nucleus of fairly well educated Somalis, including many who have been converted to Christianity, who resent foreign domination and racial inequality in their area and will work for independence or a limited protectorate over the entire area, even though they now realize that they are likely to suffer through the achievement of either. The Somali Youth League and the Somali National League are in the process of merging and within a year nearly all groups may be united under a single leadership.

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3. [REDACTED] British influence in the Somali Youth League stems from the British Consul in Addis Ababa, (Lt. Col.) A. T. Curle, with (Brigadier) R. H. Smith and a group of colonial officials in British Somaliland carrying out his instructions. The British Administration has turned affairs of the Somali Youth League in Somalia over to the new Italian Administration. The British probably will rely upon a group of well trained and well paid Italians, who in the past have served under them as Somali Youth League secretaries and liaison men, to direct the future activities of the Somali Youth League toward their interests and to coordinate these with the clubs in British Somaliland. There is no means of checking up on the political traffic between British and French Somalilands, since there is but one post on the entire border and that is manned by only two Senegalese soldiers, [REDACTED]

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No Change in Class

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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4. Up to 15 April 1950 there was no direct evidence of Soviet influence in or connections with the Somali Youth League. [REDACTED] 25X1X that, if they wish to influence the Somalis in any manner, the Soviets will achieve greater success by using white men rather than Arabs, as Somalis have a suspicion and contempt for Arab peoples not of their own group; likely candidates for such work will be Italians or White Russians, he states.

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5. [REDACTED] the Government of French Somaliland has evidence that Ethiopian officials are attempting to influence members and units of the Somali Youth League in the Ogaden to serve Ethiopia's political needs. However, the basic principles of the Somali national organizations, the traditional enmity between the two peoples, and the ineptitude of Ethiopians in such work argue against any useful achievement in this direction, [REDACTED]

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