

constitution would be determined by representatives of Cyrenaica, Tripolitania and the Fezzan consulting together in a national assembly. A United Nations Commissioner, aided by a Council of ten members, would help the Libyans to formulate their constitution and to establish an independent government. The existing British and French administrations, in cooperation with the Commissioner, would begin immediately the necessary preparations for transferring power to a duly constituted government. They would coordinate their activities in assisting the establishment of Libyan unity and independence.

There was some discussion of whether the three areas into which Libya is now divided should have unity conferred on them by an Assembly decision, or be permitted to make a decision on the question themselves. A Polish amendment providing that Libya should be described in the resolution as a "united" as well as an "independent and sovereign" state was defeated. The Assembly also defeated attempts by the Soviet Union to have Libyan independence made effective immediately and to force the occupying powers to withdraw their armed forces and liquidate military bases without delay.

The Assembly appointed Mr. Adrian Pelt, Assistant Secretary-General of the United Nations in charge of Conferences and General Services, as Commissioner for Libya. Members of his Council were to be representatives of Egypt, France, Italy, Pakistan, the United Kingdom, the United States, Cyrenaica, Tripolitania, the Fezzan and the minorities of Libya.

In the second section of its resolution, the General Assembly recommended that Italian Somaliland should become independent after ten years of administration by Italy under the United Nations trusteeship system. Italy might take over the administration of the territory from the United Kingdom on a provisional basis after an agreement had been worked out in the Trusteeship Council, without waiting for the General Assembly's approval, provided the Italian Government undertook to administer the trust territory in accordance with the provisions of the Charter. After the Assembly's approval was received, the Italian administration would cease to be provisional. An Advisory Council, composed of representatives of Colombia, Egypt and the Philippines, was to assist the Italian administration. It would commence its work when the Italian provisional administration began. The trusteeship agreement was to embody constitutional principles based on a memorandum submitted to the General Assembly by India. These principles were designed to assist the rapid development of Italian Somaliland towards independence.

The Trusteeship Council met in special session at Lake Success on December 8 and 9 to appoint the drafting committee. It decided to invite representatives of Italy, Ethiopia, India, Egypt and Colombia to participate without vote in its discussions. The Philippines, already represented on the Trusteeship Council, needed no special invitation.

Ethiopia had consistently opposed the creation of an Italian trusteeship for Italian Somaliland. In December it claimed the status of a "state directly concerned" in the trusteeship agreement, within the meaning of Article 79 of the Charter. This would make it necessary for the agreement to have the assent of Ethiopia before it could be submitted to the Assembly for approval. Ethiopia asked therefore that when the Trusteeship Council met again in January 1950, its representative should be allowed to vote as well as to participate in the debate.