

Ethiopia as an autonomous unit under the sovereignty of the Ethiopian Crown.¹ During the period under review the federation was inaugurated and in December 1952 the General Assembly heard the statements of those directly concerned and discussed the final reports. It then voted on a resolution put forward by Canada and twelve of the thirteen other co-sponsors of the original federation resolution. The new resolution expressed general satisfaction with the work done and congratulated the people and governmental authorities of the federation on the effective and loyal fulfilment of the Assembly's recommendations. This final resolution was adopted on December 17 with 51 states in favour, none opposed and only the five members of the Soviet bloc abstaining.

The proceedings in the General Assembly threw fresh light on the degree of co-operation which had been required to bring the federation into being within a period of less than two years. During this interim period the British Administration delivered the country from roving bands of malcontents, arranged for the first general election in Eritrea, convoked the first representative assembly, created an Eritrean administration, built up an Eritrean civil service, re-organized the judicial system, established adequate and well-trained Eritrean security forces, drew up Eritrea's first balanced budget and organized a customs union between Eritrea and Ethiopia.

Meanwhile the United Nations Commissioner in Eritrea, Dr. Anze Matienzo, consulted the people directly, visiting every part of the country to discuss essential features of the proposed Eritrean constitution. He conferred with the Emperor of Ethiopia about detailed arrangements and sought the advice of legal experts in Geneva on controversial points. The draft constitution so prepared was introduced in the Eritrean assembly by Dr. Anze Matienzo and was approved by him after its adoption by that body in amended form on July 10, 1952.

The Emperor of Ethiopia used his influence to encourage general acceptance of the proposed federation, and on September 11, 1952 he ratified both the Eritrean constitution and the federal act embodied in the General Assembly's resolution of December 2, 1950. On September 15 the Emperor's Representative in Asmara and the Chief Executive of the Eritrean Government formally took over authority from the British Administration and United Kingdom officials withdrew.

At the seventh session of the General Assembly there was some discussion of the durability of the federation. Several speakers hoped generous technical assistance would be made available and a few drew attention to the importance of establishing a federal Supreme Court to deal with possible jurisdictional disputes. The United Kingdom Representative warned that either unionist or separatist sentiment, both of which are still strong in Eritrea, might lead to trouble in the future, but the Assembly accepted Ethiopia's assurances that the autonomy of Eritrea and all the provisions of the federal act will be sincerely respected, while the Italian Representative accepted as "unreserved and final" Ethiopia's guarantee that the rights of Italian inhabitants will not be diminished.²

¹See *Canada and the United Nations 1950*, p. 24

²For a fuller account see *External Affairs*, June 1953, pp. 191-195.