

duly constituted government under the same Prime Minister, appointed by the King in conformity with the constitution. Application was made immediately by Mahmud Bey Muntasser for Libya's admission to membership in the United Nations in accordance with the General Assembly's resolutions of November 21, 1949 and November 17, 1950. Soon afterward the State of Libya was formally recognized by a number of foreign governments, including that of Canada. Elections were held on February 19, 1952 and Prime Minister Muntasser was confirmed in office.

When the General Assembly convened in Paris in November 1951 unsuccessful efforts were made by certain Arab representatives to have the Libyan item taken up early, in the hope that the wisdom or legality of some of the measures employed in preparing Libya for independence might be considered by the Assembly before Libya was actually declared an independent state. They also suggested that the forthcoming election should be supervised by the United Nations. The Libyan item was not taken up, however, until January 23, 1952, a month after the declaration of independence was published.

The framework of the resolution adopted by the General Assembly on February 1, 1952 was provided by a draft resolution jointly sponsored by twelve states — the United States, Iraq, Liberia, Australia, New Zealand, the Philippines, Denmark, Greece, Chile, Nicaragua, Peru and Uruguay. This resolution congratulated Libya on its attainment of independence, noted that national elections (later amended at the request of four Arab states to read "free and democratic national elections") would soon be held in accordance with provisions of the Libyan constitution, asked the Secretary-General and the Specialized Agencies to continue to extend to Libya such technical assistance as they could if Libya asked for it, and expressed the opinion that Libya should now be admitted to the United Nations in accordance with the Charter and the General Assembly's former recommendations.

Opposition to the draft resolution centred on the issue of whether or not Libya could really be regarded as an independent state so long as foreign troops remained on Libyan soil and the national economy had to be bolstered by substantial subsidies from abroad. The Representative of the Soviet Union proposed that all foreign military forces should be withdrawn from Libya within three months and foreign military bases liquidated. The Representative of Egypt proposed that foreign military bases be turned over to the Libyan authorities and suggested a time limit of six months for the withdrawal of foreign forces. Both these proposals were defeated. The majority, including Canada, took the view that Libya as an independent state should negotiate its own formal agreements on these subjects with the countries concerned — viz., the United Kingdom, France and the United States.

Libya's poverty is great. The deficit in its ordinary administrative budgets is likely to exceed \$3 million, without taking account of urgently necessary minimum plans for economic and social development which will require several millions more. The United Kingdom Government has undertaken to meet the budgetary deficit up to March 1953 if the budget is prudently framed, except in