



# PRESS RELEASE

INFORMATION DIVISION  
DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS  
OTTAWA - CANADA

No. 66

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 9, 1948

In common with other signatories of the Peace Treaty with Italy, Canada was invited on May 13, 1948, by the Secretary-General of the Deputies of the Council of Foreign Ministers to submit early in June its views on the disposal of the former Italian colonies. The invitation indicated that the Canadian Government, like other interested Governments, would enjoy the right to present supplementary views after it had had an opportunity to study the reports of the Four-Power Commission of Investigation which toured Eritrea, Italian Somaliland and Libya during the winter and spring. Canada's first statement, discussing the principles which should govern the disposal of the three territories, was submitted on June 7. Its supplementary statement, dated August 7, has now been submitted to the Deputies through the Canadian High Commissioner in London, according to a statement released today by the Department of External Affairs. The supplementary statement indicates the manner in which the Canadian Government believes that the principles enunciated in its statement of June 7 should be applied.

In its earlier statement the Canadian Government expressed the view that the former Italian colonies come within the scope of Chapter XI of the United Nations Charter, which deals with dependent territories. Accordingly, in considering the disposal of the former Italian colonies, the interests of the inhabitants must be recognized as paramount. Arrangements for the future administration of the territories should therefore be based on the ascertained condition of each and on the needs and wishes of its inhabitants.

The reports of the Four-Power Commission of Investigation were recently circulated by the Deputies to the signatories of the Peace Treaty with Italy, and it is on a careful study of these reports that the supplementary statement of the Canadian Government has been based.

The Canadian Government has concluded that one of the first needs of the three territories is the continuation of outside assistance. In conformity with its statement of June 7 it therefore supports the application of the international trusteeship system to the former Italian colonies, except where the majority of the inhabitants desire incorporation in a neighbouring state or territory. On the basis of the information now before it, the Canadian Government has arrived at the following provisional views regarding the disposition to be made of the former Italian colonies.

The Canadian Government is disposed to support the designation of Italy as administering authority for the trust territory of Italian Somaliland. It assumes that the terms of the trusteeship agreement for this territory will not preclude the establishment in due course of the closest possible economic, social and cultural relations among territories of East Africa which are inhabited principally by peoples of Somali race.