

administrations of Southern Algeria and Tunisia. Italy wished to be appointed administering authority under the United Nations trusteeship system in the remaining territories—namely, Tripolitania, the whole of Eritrea and Italian Somaliland. Inhabitants of some of these territories, particularly Cyrenaica and Tripolitania, asked for independence rather than trusteeship. The majority of the people of the eastern half of Eritrea asked for incorporation in Ethiopia. The remainder opposed this, and asked for trusteeship for an undivided Eritrea if independence was out of the question. Those who wanted trusteeship here or elsewhere, however, disagreed sharply on the question of whether or not Italy should be the administering authority.

In the Assembly there was a division of opinion as to the form which should be given trusteeships in the former Italian colonies. Some insisted that the United Nations should itself undertake the direct administration of one or more of the territories, through the Trusteeship Council. Others suggested that joint trusteeships might be established under the administration of two or more states. Still others argued that the only form of trusteeship that would work properly was the trusteeship administered by a single power, but there was a difference of opinion on the propriety of appointing Italy as administering authority in any of its former colonies.

With so many points of view represented in the Assembly it seemed unlikely at first that a majority could be obtained in favour of any of the foregoing proposals. In due course, however, a compromise proposal agreed to in London by the Foreign Ministers of the United Kingdom and Italy won the support of a majority of the members of the Political Committee of the Assembly and came within a few votes of adoption by the Assembly itself. This proposal would have enabled Libya, comprising Cyrenaica, Tripolitania and the Fezzan, to be established as a united, independent state after ten years, unless the Assembly should find the step inappropriate at that time. During these ten years Cyrenaica would be under British trusteeship, the Fezzan under French trusteeship. In Tripolitania the existing British military administration would continue until the end of 1951 at the latest, but with the assistance of an advisory council of which Italy would be a member. From 1951 until Libya as a whole achieved independence in 1959, Tripolitania would be under Italian trusteeship. The south-eastern half of Eritrea would be incorporated in Ethiopia. Italian Somaliland would be placed under Italian trusteeship.

Although this draft resolution had the support of many Western states, including Canada, and most of the Latin American members, a combination of Asian, African, and Slav states, and one Latin American republic, defeated it by a narrow margin. Opponents of the resolution took the view that neither Italian Somaliland nor Tripolitania should be subjected to Italian control in view of the strength of anti-Italian feeling in both territories. The defeat of the resolution was interpreted as an indication of growing support for the principle of self-determination. The only decision reached in the spring of 1949 was that the Economic and Social Council should be asked to take into account the needs of the former Italian colonies in planning its activities in economically underdeveloped regions.

Immediately after the General Assembly adjourned, a Cyrenaican National Congress met to demand independence. The United Kingdom authorities agreed to the formation of a Cyrenaican government with jurisdiction limited to purely internal affairs. A constitution proclaimed in