

Pending settlement of the refugee problem the refugees themselves are being supported through voluntary contributions to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees. On December 2 the Assembly adopted by 46 votes to 0, with 6 abstentions, a joint resolution initiated by the four states which serve on the Agency's advisory commission. For 1951-52 this provides a fund of \$20,000,000 to be voluntarily subscribed for direct relief and a reintegration fund of at least \$30,000,000 to be similarly subscribed for projects proposed by Near Eastern governments and approved by the Agency with a view to the permanent re-establishment of refugees. Canada was appointed on a negotiating committee of seven to secure firm commitments from member states and others to finance the Agency's current operations and its work from July 1, 1951 to June 3, 1952.

Former Italian Colonies

On December 2 the Assembly approved by 46 votes to 10, with 4 abstentions, the proposal for the federation of Eritrea with Ethiopia outlined in the December issue of *External Affairs*. On December 14 it elected Mr. Eduardo Anze Matienzo of Bolivia as United Nations Commissioner for Eritrea to facilitate the process of federation, which is to be completed by September 15, 1952.

On December 2 the Assembly formally approved the trusteeship agreement for Italian Somaliland negotiated with Italy last January by the Trusteeship Council. Ethiopia having decided not to carry out its earlier plan, reported in our December issue, of pressing for advisory opinions from the International Court of Justice on the interpretation of Article 79 of the Charter.

On December 15 an extended draft resolution of a technical nature was accepted providing for the transfer to Libya of various types of Italian state and para-statal property with the assistance of a United Nations tribunal. The Assembly also recommended that the Secretary-General should report at the next regular session on the degree to which the repair of war damages in Libya might be related to technical assistance.

Undelimited portions of the boundaries of Italian Somaliland and Libya are to be fixed by procedures outlined in a further resolution adopted by the Assembly on December 15. After Libya has become independent it will negotiate its own boundary settlement with France, with or without the aid of "a third person". Italy will negotiate boundary settlements for Italian Somaliland with Ethiopia and the United Kingdom administration in British Somaliland. In case of difficulty recourse may be had to a United Nations mediator or to arbitration.

Canada voted in favour of all these resolutions. All except the resolution concerning war damages in Libya were opposed by the Soviet bloc.

South-West Africa

On July 11, 1950, the International Court of Justice handed down its opinion on certain questions relating to the international status of South-West Africa. The Court was unanimous in its opinion that South-West Africa is a territory under international mandate. It also found that South Africa continues to have international obligations to transmit annual reports on its administration of the territory and to forward petitions from local inhabitants there, the supervisory functions in this connection to be exercised by the United Nations. While the International Court was of the opinion that South Africa has no legal obligation to submit a trusteeship agreement in respect of South-West Africa, it was equally satisfied that South Africa, acting alone, has not the competence to modify the international status of that territory. Such competence, the Court found, rests with South Africa acting with the consent of the United Nations.