

tees concerning the conditions under which they would live if they were repatriated. On February 2, 1952 the General Assembly adopted a resolution, which Canada supported, expressing the opinion that obstacles to the repatriation of Greek children were not insurmountable and asking the Standing Committee and the international Red Cross societies to continue their efforts to have the children returned.

Representatives of the Soviet bloc failed in successive attempts to have resolutions adopted calling for the cessation of "foreign interference" in Greece or the repeal of death sentences meted out to leftist leaders by Greek courts and inviting the Greek Government to grant a general amnesty. Efforts to have the Assembly discuss the treatment of leftist prisoners in Greece were ruled out of order.

Libya

In pursuance of resolutions adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on November 21, 1949 and November 17, 1950, the process of preparing Libya for independence continued during the year 1951 with the active aid of the United Nations Commissioner for Libya, Mr. Adrian Pelt, who was advised from time to time by the ten-member United Nations Council for Libya. The National Assembly,¹ whose chief responsibility was the drafting of a constitution, had decided in December 1950 that Libya should have a federal and monarchical form of government and had invited the Senussi Amir to become King of Libya as Idriss I. On March 29, 1951 it appointed a provisional federal government of six members under the premiership of Mahmud Bey Muntasser.

The constitution adopted on October 7, 1951 by the National Assembly provided among other things for the distribution of powers between the federal and provincial governments. To facilitate the orderly transfer of these powers, the United Nations Commissioner had arranged for the creation of a Co-ordination Committee in which he was able to discuss with a legal adviser and with British and French administering authorities and representatives of the territorial administration of Tripolitania, Cyrenaica and the Fezzan the best means of effecting the necessary transition. In accordance with decisions of this committee the transfer of powers took place in four stages, beginning in October immediately after the adoption of the constitution. Not until the third stage was reached, however, did the transfers involve a considerable financial burden for the federal government. The third transfer was effected on December 15, 1951, immediately after the conclusion of provisional financial agreements with the Governments of the United Kingdom and France, which helped the Libyan administration to shoulder its new responsibilities. The final transfer of powers (relating to foreign affairs and defence) took place on December 24, 1951, when Libya's independence was declared by King Idriss I and the constitution came formally into effect. The provisional Libyan Government thereupon resigned and was succeeded by a

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