

period envisaged by the Sub-Committee's draft resolution is both realistic and necessary. However, we do believe that it is most desirable to leave to the people of Libya full freedom of choice as to the development of their constitution. Such freedom of choice is inherent in the concept of independence. My Delegation believes, therefore, that the General Assembly should not take any action which can be interpreted as prejudging this particular question. The representatives of the three provinces in Libya must decide themselves what form of government they wish to develop and what shall be the constitutional arrangements in force between the three territories. Such a constitution, as has already been pointed out, might be in the form of either a unitary state or a federal state, but this question can only properly be answered by the people of Libya themselves. Accordingly, the Canadian Delegation believes that the amendments introduced by the United Kingdom Delegation are practical and useful without in any sense disturbing the principles embodied in the Sub-Committee's recommendations. These amendments do, in our judgment, leave with the inhabitants of Libya a greater freedom of action in the development of their constitution than is the case with the text proposed by the Sub-Committee. For these reasons we propose to support the Sub-Committee's recommendation together with the United Kingdom amendments.

I would now like to say a few words in regard to Italian Somaliland. In the judgment of my Delegation the Four Power Commission of Investigation has made it sufficiently clear that this territory is not yet ready to assume the responsibilities of complete independence. The question, therefore, arises as to the best method of preparing the local inhabitants for self-government. In pursuing this objective we must have regard for the particular historical background of this region and for the contribution which the Italian people have made to its development. We must also recognize, I believe, that the administration of dependent areas under a single trustee has in most cases proved to be more beneficial to the people concerned than administration under a joint trusteeship. For this reason my Delegation will support the recommendation of the Sub-Committee that, during the interim period prior to full independence, Italian Somaliland should be administered by the international trusteeship system with Italy as the administering authority. We also support the principle that a trusteeship agreement should be negotiated between the administering authority and the Trusteeship Council for submission to the General Assembly; and that this trusteeship agreement should include an annex containing a declaration of constitutional principles guaranteeing the rights of the inhabitants of Italian Somaliland. In connection with this point my Delegation wishes to express its sympathetic interest in the proposed annex submitted by the Delegation of India.

Insofar as Eritrea is concerned the Canadian Delegation regrets the necessity of a postponement of a decision by the Assembly but we believe that, in the face of the conflicting evidence which has been placed before us, such a postponement may well be the part of wisdom. In the case of this territory, as in the case of the others, the Canadian Delegation does not favour any solution which does not have prior regard for the wishes and welfare of the peoples concerned. We must establish beyond doubt what really *are* the wishes of the inhabitants and must develop our solution accordingly. However, at the present time we believe that it is necessary