

mittee was adopted without opposition on November 17 at a plenary meeting of the Assembly. France and the Soviet bloc abstained. The French Delegate feared that the dates set for creation of a provisional government and for achievement of Libyan independence were impractical but he indicated that his government would cooperate in carrying out the Assembly's recommendations.

Egypt and certain Asian members made a last-minute attempt to have the Libyan national assembly changed from an appointive to an elective body, with Tripolitania, Cyrenaica and the Fezzan represented according to their populations. The Assembly rejected this proposal. The Libyan constitution will thus be framed by a body in which the three provinces are equally represented, and the government is therefore likely to be based on the federal principle. The United Nations Commissioner has undertaken to recommend, however, that the constitution should be regarded as provisional until ratified by a popularly elected Libyan parliament.

Eritrea

The report of the Commission for Eritrea, appointed by the Assembly a year ago to facilitate a decision on how to dispose of the territory, was considered by the Interim Committee of the Assembly during the summer and came before the Ad Hoc Political Committee in November. The Commission did not present a unanimous report. Two members favoured independence for Eritrea as a separate state, two favoured federation of Eritrea with Ethiopia, and the fifth suggested union with Ethiopia of the provinces where unionist sentiment predominates, the remainder of the territory being allowed time to choose between union with Ethiopia and union with the Sudan. On November 25 the Ad Hoc Political Committee decided to recommend to the Assembly that Eritrea should be federated with Ethiopia on the basis of a plan to which Ethiopia and Italy have now consented, which was largely worked out last summer by members of the Assembly's Interim Committee. Canada was one of the 14 states jointly sponsoring the recommendation.

The Committee recommended a federal act establishing Eritrea as an autonomous unit, federated with Ethiopia under the sovereignty of the Ethiopian crown. Eritrea would exercise legislative, executive and judicial powers in the field of domestic affairs and would have equal representation with Ethiopia in an imperial federal council. Human rights and fundamental liberties would be assured to all residents of Eritrea. A United Nations commissioner would help with the drafting of the Eritrean constitution, and the transfer of powers from the United Kingdom administration would take place as soon as the Eritrean constitution and the federal act entered into effect.

Suggestions rejected by the Committee during the course of its deliberations were: a U.S.S.R. proposal calling for immediate independence for Eritrea; a Polish proposal to give Eritrea independence after three years of administration by a commission of six members; a proposal of Pakistan that Eritrea should be set up as a separate, independent state by a process similar to that employed in Libya, and an Iraqi proposal, which had a good deal of support, that an Eritrean national assembly should itself decide by July 1, 1951, whether the territory should enter into federal union with Ethiopia or be established as a separate independent state.

Secretary-General's Twenty-Year Peace Programme

In accordance with a decision taken in the early part of the present session, the Assembly debated the Secretary-General's ten point peace programme without referring it to committee for prior consideration. From the quality of the debate it was evident that the majority of delegations were not prepared to engage in a detailed and constructive discussion of the various points which the Secretary-General had put forward in his memorandum of June 6, 1950.