

of the United Arab Republic pointed out that the role of the United Nations in this transitional period was limited to ensuring that the people of Western Samoa were not only assisted and well advised, but also unfettered by any extraneous influence or consideration in the exercise of their right to self-determination. We believe these conditions have been met and that the Assembly's task now is simply to give guidance on the steps which remain to be taken before the trusteeship agreement can be terminated and Western Samoa becomes an independent state.

By a Constitutional Convention the Samoan people have adopted, through their chosen representatives, a form of government which is, in their view, the one best suited to their needs. That is their right; this is self-determination in accordance with the freely expressed wishes of the indigenous population and in conformity with the Charter. I do not think any of us would wish to call into question their right to do so. It is a constitution which by reason of their long tradition incorporates some novel features, but it appears to my Delegation to incorporate all the necessary guarantees of fundamental human rights which one would expect to find in a modern constitution.

The same Constitutional Convention has adopted a number of resolutions. This again is in accord with precedent and fully within the powers of the Constitutional Convention. One of these resolutions deals with external relations and the framework of future co-operation between New Zealand and the independent state of Western Samoa. The Canadian Delegation has no doubt that the Constitutional Convention was entirely competent to adopt this resolution. What it amounts to is simply a recommendation. On attaining independence the sovereign government of Western Samoa can act on this recommendation or not, as it chooses. The resolution cannot in any way bind its hands for the future.

The essential point is that Western Samoa will succeed to full and unqualified independence in a year's time. This sovereignty will in no way be limited; it will not be conditional or qualified. Accordingly, while the resolution on external relations may express the beliefs and desires of the majority of the Samoan people, it cannot, in any way that I can conceive, be a limiting factor on the freedom of action of the future government of independent Western Samoa.

A protectorate arises when a weak state surrenders itself by treaty into the protection of a strong state in such a way that it transfers the management of all its more important international affairs to the protecting state.