

federal rather than a unitary form of government for the new state. The principle of equal representation of the three parts of Libya in the national assembly was particularly criticized, since it meant that Cyrenaica and the Fezzan, possessing between them only a quarter to a third of the nation's population, could outvote the representatives of the more populous and advanced region of Tripolitania, whose people incline toward a unitary form of government. In a joint draft resolution the seven states proposed that a Libyan national assembly "duly representative of the inhabitants" should be convened by January 1, 1951, and that a provisional government, responsible to this assembly, should be set up by March 1 to take over all the powers now exercised by the British and French authorities.

Canada participated in the informal deliberations of a drafting committee which eventually produced a compromise text. The new draft, avoiding any criticism of the work accomplished in Libya, allowed an extra month of preparation before the creation of the provisional government, which would not be responsible to the constituent assembly but would take over progressively from the administering powers in accordance with an arrangement to be worked out by the Commissioner. Although insisting that Libya should be a united state, the compromise draft resolution left it to the inhabitants to decide whether the new state should be constituted along unitary or federal lines, in accordance with the principle of self-determination previously adopted by the General Assembly. The need for technical assistance continued to be recognized, though it was made clear that aid should be extended to Libya only at its express request. After some debate this draft resolution, jointly sponsored by Canada and twelve other members, was adopted in the Assembly, with an amendment affecting the section on technical assistance. During the debate on the resolution the Commissioner promised that he would recommend that the Libyan national assembly should enact a constitution only in provisional form, leaving to a duly elected parliament the function of giving the instrument final approval. He looked for the establishment of a bi-cameral legislature, the first chamber to be popularly elected and the second to be composed of an equal number of representatives from the three regions of Libya. An Egyptian amendment calling for the creation of an elected rather than an appointed national assembly, which would have entailed a considerable postponement of the date on which independence could be achieved, failed to receive two-thirds majority support. Instead the thirteen-power resolution was adopted on November 17 by 50 votes in favour and none against, the cost to the United Nations of implementing it in 1951 being estimated at \$582,200. The Soviet bloc and France abstained from voting, the latter on the ground that the dates set to mark the various phases of Libya's development would be difficult to meet, although France pledged its full co-operation. On the recommendation of the Economic and Social Council the Assembly provided in a separate resolution that Libya should not be deprived of technical assistance during the interval which might elapse between the achievement of independence and the admission of the new state to membership in the United Nations. Soviet efforts to prescribe a unitary form of government for Libya, and to secure the withdrawal of foreign troops