



# CANADIAN WEEKLY BULLETIN

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## WEEK'S EVENTS IN REVIEW

**DISPOSAL OF FORMER ITALIAN COLONIES:** The following is the text of Canada's first general statement of the Deputies of the Council of Foreign Ministers on the disposal of former Italian colonies under arrangements outlined in Annex XI of the Treaty of Peace with Italy:

"The Canadian Government, having been invited by the Deputies of the Council of Foreign Ministers, in a communication from the Secretary-General dated May 13, 1948, to present its views on the disposal of the former Italian colonies, desires to submit in writing the following observations:

"It is the understanding of the Canadian Government that until the African territories formerly administered as Italian colonies are placed under trusteeship or until they achieve independence or are incorporated in the territory of an independent state or states, they fall within the scope of Chapter XI of the United Nations Charter. This means that, in considering the disposition to be made of Eritrea, Somalia and Libya, the interests of the inhabitants should be recognized as paramount, according to the principle enunciated in Article 73 of the Charter, and that arrangements to ensure the future political, economic, social and educational advancement of the peoples concerned should be based on the ascertained condition of each territory and the needs and the wishes of its inhabitants.

"The Canadian Government has therefore been gratified to learn that it is the intention of the Deputies to send to interested Governments copies of the reports of the Four-Power Commission of Investigation as soon as these are

available and that interested Governments will be accorded the right, after examining the reports, to present supplementary views to the Council of Deputies, either in writing or orally. Thus the contribution made by all interested Governments to the ultimate decision of the Council of Foreign Ministers may be based on a knowledge of the facts, without which it would be difficult to reach conclusions serving the best interests of the populations concerned.

"Should the reports of the Commission of Investigation indicate that any of the territories formerly administered as Italian colonies are not ready for independence, or that the majority of the inhabitants do not desire incorporation in a neighbouring territory or a neighbouring independent state or states, the Canadian Government will support the application to these territories of the international trusteeship system under Chapter XII of the Charter. In the selection of administering authorities the Canadian Government will support the appointment of those best qualified to achieve the basic objectives of the trusteeship system as set forth in Article 76, i.e., (a) to further international peace and security; (b) to promote the political, economic, social and educational advancement of the inhabitants and their progressive development towards self-government or independence; (c) to encourage respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms; and (d) to ensure equal treatment for all members of the United Nations and their nationals, and equal treatment for the latter in the administration of justice."