

The fact that the boundary between Italian Somaliland and Ethiopia has not been defined would create special difficulties, Ethiopia also declared, since in the past it was the overlapping of Italian and Ethiopian claims in this area which led to the invasion of Ethiopia by Italy in 1935. The General Assembly had already resolved on November 21, however, that its Interim Committee should study the procedure to be adopted to delimit the boundaries of the former Italian colonies insofar as these had not already been fixed by international agreement.

In the case of Eritrea the General Assembly felt that it did not possess sufficient information on which to base a useful decision during its Fourth Session. It did not know, for example, how strong the sentiment in favour of union with Ethiopia actually was in the various provinces of the territory. During the summer of 1949, political parties opposed to union with Ethiopia, which had formerly disagreed among themselves as to who should administer a trusteeship for an undivided Eritrea, pooled their strength temporarily to demand independence, apparently without having agreed on the form of government which would be set up if independence were granted. The General Assembly therefore decided that a commission consisting of representatives of Burma, Guatemala, Norway, Pakistan and South Africa should ascertain more fully the wishes of the inhabitants and the best means of promoting their welfare, and make proposals to the Assembly by June 15, 1950, so as to enable final consideration of the question during the Fifth Session. The Commission was to take into account the views of various racial, religious and political groups, the capacity of the people for self-government, the interests of peace and security in East Africa, and the rights and claims of Ethiopia.

Canada's general approach to the subject is recorded in the statements it presented to the Deputies of the Council of Foreign Ministers on June 7 and August 7, 1948.* At the Third Session of the Assembly, Canada voted, on May 18, 1949, in favour of the plan which had had majority support in committee. At the Fourth Session, on November 21, the Canadian Representative spoke and voted in favour of the recommendations for the three territories which have been outlined above.**

Jerusalem and the Holy Places

On December 9, 1949, the General Assembly adopted for the third time a resolution recommending that Jerusalem and a number of the small towns and villages surrounding it, including Bethlehem, should be placed under international administration.

When the Assembly in November 1947 worked out its first checkerboard plan for the partition of Palestine into Arab and Jewish states bound together in an economic union, the Jerusalem area was designated as a separate political entity within the economic union, located in the heart of the largest of the Arab segments of Palestine. The city and its environs

*The text of the statement of June 7 and the text of a press release on the statement of August 7 were published in *External Affairs Bulletin*, August 1948.

**For excerpts from the Canadian statement, see Appendix 11, pp. 248-250.