

of the Council shall be member States administering trust territories, and no such administering States can be named until trusteeship agreements have been concluded.

It had been recognized, however, at the meetings of the Preparatory Commission and of its Executive Committee that the trusteeship system, and with it the Trusteeship Council, should be brought into being with all possible speed, since otherwise the institutional framework of the United Nations would be incomplete.

The Charter names three categories of territories which may be placed under the trusteeship system: (a) territories now held under mandate; (b) territories which may be detached from enemy States as a result of the Second World War; and (c) territories voluntarily placed under the system by States responsible for their administration. In order to bring the system into being as rapidly as possible, the Preparatory Commission recommended that the General Assembly should call upon the mandatory member States "to undertake practical steps, in concert with the other States directly concerned, for the implementation of Article 79 of the Charter (which provides for the conclusion of agreements on the terms of trusteeship for each territory to be placed under the trusteeship system), in order to submit these agreements for approval preferably not later than during the Second Part of the First Session of the General Assembly."

In putting forward this recommendation the Preparatory Commission had rejected a majority proposal by its Executive Committee that a temporary trusteeship body should be set up to deal with trusteeship matters until the Trusteeship Council itself could be established. The New Zealand delegate to the Commission had been one of those who considered that no really useful purpose could be served by setting up a temporary organ, and in his address subsequently to a plenary session of the General Assembly the chairman of the delegation expressed his satisfaction that this proposal had been rejected. The trusteeship machinery described in the Charter, he said, could be set up in three steps: firstly, Powers having responsibility for the government of dependent peoples should announce their willingness to place the respective territories under trusteeship. Secondly, trusteeship agreements should be concluded. Thirdly, the Trusteeship Council should be set up.

This, in fact, proved to be the broad basis of the formula agreed upon by Committee Four of the General Assembly and adopted by the Assembly as a whole. The resolution which the Preparatory Commission had put forward, and by which the Assembly would have called upon the mandatory Powers to conclude trusteeship agreements in respect of their mandates, was actually anticipated by the action of mandatory member States in declaring their willingness (with initial reservations in two cases) to submit their mandates to the trusteeship system.

The New Zealand Government had taken the initiative in this regard by declaring, as early as December, 1945, their readiness to place under trusteeship the mandated territory of Western Samoa and to submit in