

forward as a solution a different boundary line on a map. That which was eventually accepted by the Council of Foreign Ministers was the compromise line put forward by France, which came to be known as the French line. The decision of the Foreign Ministers to create a Free Territory of Trieste to the west of the French line, however, upset the ethnic balance of the French experts' proposals, and this was seized upon by various delegations as the basis of their respective amendments. The amendment farthest removed from the original text was that of Brazil, whose delegation argued that the decision to establish the Free Territory of Trieste had completely altered the significance of the problem of delimiting the frontier between Italy and Yugoslavia. None of the lines proposed before the Council of Foreign Ministers had provided for the creation of a Free Territory, and its establishment was exclusively at the expense of the territory which had been contributed to Italy by the frontier line in question. They therefore thought it necessary to find some compensation for the heavy sacrifices which Italy and the Italian population of Venezia Giulia were asked to make. One of these forms of compensation might consist of adding Western Istria to the Free Territory of Trieste, which had formerly been included within the British frontier line. This would be legitimate, since the Committee of Experts had unanimously reported that the Italian element constituted a majority, and in many instances almost the whole population in many of the towns on or near the coast.

The Brazilian proposals also provided for a more generous settlement of the Gorizia area in favour of Italy. In other respects the Brazilian line approximated closely to the so-called British line.

An alternative Brazilian amendment proposed that the problem be shelved for a year, and that a new committee draw up the frontier on ethnic principles which it was hoped would satisfy most of the claims on either side. Both amendments were conclusively rejected.

At the other extreme was the Yugoslav amendment, which provided for a frontier much to the west of the French line along its whole length from the north of Venezia Giulia to the boundaries of the proposed Free Territory of Trieste. Broadly, it proposed that the Kanal Valley in the north and Gorizia, the second largest town of Venezia Giulia, should be incorporated in Yugoslavia. It also proposed that the coastal corridor of Italian territory which gave access from Trieste to the Italian port of Monfalcone on the Adriatic, should be given to Yugoslavia.

To this boundary rectification was coupled the Yugoslav demand for a free port zone with a Yugoslav administration within the international territory of Trieste and for the exclusive use by the territory of Yugoslav railway traffic and shipping. Yugoslavia also demanded that the international zone should be confined to the immediate precincts of the City of Trieste.

The amendment was voted on in four parts. Each was defeated by 13 votes to 5, with 2 abstentions, New Zealand voting against.