

The sub-committee next proceeded to reject in two separate votes the principles of (a) multilateral or joint trusteeship and (b) a direct United Nations trusteeship, neither of which had any chance of success since so many States were committed to support an Italian trusteeship. The principle of direct United Nations administration was one which the New Zealand delegation had been instructed to support as providing the best alternative to the return of Italy, but after its defeat in the sub-committee (of which New Zealand was not a member) it secured little support in the First Committee.

The sub-committee endeavoured to make Italian trusteeship more palatable by laying down the principle that there should be annexed to the trusteeship agreement a declaration of constitutional principles guaranteeing the rights of the inhabitants of Somaliland and establishing institutions designed to ensure the inauguration, development, and subsequent establishment of self-government. In this connection it was unanimously recommended that in drafting this declaration the Trusteeship Council should "take into account" (a wording later changed by the First Committee to read "be guided by") a text proposed by the Indian delegation—a text which was, in fact, never considered by sub-committee, First Committee, or General Assembly. Despite these qualifications, the sub-committee's proposal remained unsatisfactory to the Moslem and some other delegations; most objections, however, were later stilled by two major changes adopted by the First Committee. First the words "unless at the end of that period the General Assembly decides otherwise" were deleted, thus ensuring that Italian Somaliland, whatever its state of development, must become independent at the end of ten years. Secondly, it was provided that Italy should be aided and advised by an Advisory Council, "a sort of supervisory body" as the representative of Pakistan put it, composed of representatives of Colombia, Egypt, and the Philippines. These modifications were designed not only to assure the necessary Assembly majority, but also to reduce the opposition of the inhabitants to the return of Italy and also, perhaps, to give some assurance to Ethiopia that the activities of Italian troops be supervised and so to discourage Ethiopia from taking any direct action against the return of Italy.

Sir Carl Berendsen had stated at the opening of the First Committee's discussion of the sub-committee's report that he did not believe that the people of Somaliland desired Italian trusteeship or that the benefits the territory would receive from such trusteeship were so obvious and overwhelming as to warrant overriding the wishes of the population. He had suggested that if the solution favoured by the New Zealand delegation—direct United Nations trusteeship—was unacceptable, the Commission of inquiry to Eritrea might go also to Somaliland, and he had reminded the Committee of the desirability of keeping in mind the aim of ultimately