



United Nations

GENERAL

A/991

22 September 1949

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Fourth session

QUESTION OF THE DISPOSAL OF THE FORMER ITALIAN COLONIES

Telegram dated 19 September 1949 from the Acting Minister for
Foreign Affairs of Ethiopia to the Secretary-General
of the United Nations

UNDER INSTRUCTIONS FROM HIS MAJESTY THE EMPEROR OF ETHIOPIA I HAVE THE HONOUR TO REQUEST YOU TO COMMUNICATE THE FOLLOWING TO THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE MEMBER STATES OF THE UNITED NATIONS:

"ON THE OCCASION OF THE OPENING OF THE FOURTH REGULAR SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY WE DESIRE TO CONVEY TO YOU OUR EARNEST WISHES FOR SUCCESS IN YOUR IMPORTANT DELIBERATIONS. WE HAVE NO DOUBT THAT FOR THESE VITAL ISSUES ON WHICH DEPEND THE DESTINY OF MILLIONS OF HUMAN BEINGS YOU WILL ENDEAVOUR TO FIND A JUST AND EQUITABLE SOLUTION. AMONG THESE, AND STILL LONG OUTSTANDING, IS THE SETTLEMENT OF THE FORMER ITALIAN COLONIES. NEEDLESS TO SAY THAT FURTHER DELAY TO SETTLE THE QUESTION OF THE RETURN OF ERITREA AND SOMALIAND TO ETHIOPIA WILL NOT ENHANCE THE CONFIDENCE OF THE PEOPLES OF THE WORLD AND OF THESE TERRITORIES IN PARTICULAR. TIME AND AGAIN IT HAS BEEN CLEARLY DEMONSTRATED THAT THESE PROVINCES FORMED AN INTEGRAL PART OF ETHIOPIA BUT WERE TORN AWAY FROM HER BY FORCE OF AGGRESSION. THE FACT THAT THESE PROVINCES, ONCE CUT OFF FROM THEIR MOTHERLAND, COULD NOT LEAD AN INDEPENDENT EXISTENCE IS UNQUESTIONABLE. CONSEQUENTLY, FURTHER DELAY WILL BE OF NO HELP BUT CONTRIBUTE TO THE DETERIORATION OF SITUATIONS THAT HAVE LONG BEEN IN GREAT NEED OF ASSISTANCE. WE TRUST THAT YOU WILL NOT FAIL TO REACH A JUST SOLUTION TO ENABLE THE PEOPLE OF THESE PROVINCES TO REJOIN THEIR MOTHERLAND, ETHIOPIA. IN THE LIGHT OF THE LONG DELAYED FULFILMENT OF THE ASPIRATIONS THAT HAVE REMAINED UNCHANGED THROUGHOUT SIXTY LONG YEARS OF ENEMY OCCUPATION, AND ALSO IN JUSTIFICATION OF THE GREAT SACRIFICES DURING THE LAST WORLD WAR BY THE ETHIOPIAN AND ALLIED FORCES FOR THEIR LIBERATION AND WELLBEING, WHICH OTHERWISE WOULD HAVE BEEN MADE IN VAIN, WE PRAY THAT THE ALMIGHTY GOD ENLIGHTEN YOU IN THIS, YOUR IMPORTANT DECISION.-HAILE SELASSIE I, EMPEROR."

ACTING MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS