



Tuesday, 29 January 1952, at 10.30 a.m.

Palais de Chaillot, Paris

## CONTENTS

	Page
Libya. Problem of war damages : report of the Secretary-General : report of the Second Committee (A/2076).....	413
Economic and financial provisions in respect of Eritrea arising out of paragraph 19 of Annex XIV of the Treaty of Peace with Italy : reports of the Second Committee (A/2077) and the Fifth Committee (A/2081).....	413
Continuation of the activities of the Negotiating Committee for Extra-Budgetary Funds : report of the Committee (A/2086).....	414

*President* : Mr. Luis PADILLA NERVO (Mexico).

**Libya. Problem of war damages : report of the Secretary-General : report of the Second Committee (A/2076)**

[Agenda item 21]

1. The PRESIDENT (*translated from Spanish*) : There are two items on the agenda of the meeting. The Second Committee has submitted a report on the first item [*item 21*], which contains a draft resolution. I shall now put that draft resolution to the vote.

*The draft resolution was adopted by 50 votes to none, with 6 abstentions.*

**Economic and financial provisions in respect of Eritrea arising out of paragraph 19 of Annex XIV of the Treaty of Peace with Italy : reports of the Second Committee (A/2077) and the Fifth Committee (A/2081)**

[Agenda item 62]

2. The PRESIDENT (*translated from Spanish*) : We shall now proceed to the second item [*item 62*]. The Second Committee recommends the General Assembly to adopt the draft resolution which appears at the end of its report [A/2077]. I wish to draw the attention of the Assembly to the report of the Fifth Committee [A/2081], submitted in accordance with rule 152 of the rules of procedure, on the financial implications of the draft resolution which is about to be put to the vote.

3. I call upon the representative of Ethiopia to explain his vote.

4. Ato Abbebe RETTA (Ethiopia) : The Assembly is aware that the solution of the problem of Eritrea has not been a simple one. Already the United Nations has been concerned with this question during no less than three sessions of the General Assembly, as well as during the greater part of a session of the Interim Committee of the General Assembly. Now, during yet a fourth session, we are considering one particular aspect of the problem.

These circumstances indicate that any discussion of the question raises problems for the solution of which discernment, judgment, sincerity and goodwill are indispensable prerequisites.

5. In the case of the basic solution finally reached at the fifth session of the Assembly, the very circumstance that a compromise formula had been adopted rendered its application, in point of fact, delicate and difficult. Ethiopia has been most anxious scrupulously to respect the self-government of Eritrea which, as an autonomous unit, is to be federated with Ethiopia under the sovereignty of the Ethiopian Crown. Ethiopia could not, however, neglect its heavy international responsibilities and obligations for the maintenance of peace and welfare in that area, including, in part, the economic welfare not only of the federation but also of Eritrea itself. There have been certain difficulties which have been inherent in the application of the formula of 1950 by reason of its very nature. These difficulties are now in the process of being solved by the very eminent and distinguished United Nations Commissioner in Eritrea, Mr. Anze Matienzo. With a spirit of sincerity and mutual goodwill, we feel certain that most of these difficulties may be considered as having been surmounted, and a final solution should be found for the very few remaining problems in connexion with the application of the formula of 1950.

6. It is in that same spirit now that the Ethiopian delegation has discussed the draft resolution before us concerning economic and financial dispositions in Eritrea. Again, the problems and difficulties have been of the same nature and governed by precisely the same reason, namely, the necessity of adjusting relations in the light of a compromise formula and of assuring the broadest possible measure of self-government to the autonomous unit, while assuring, at the same time, respect for international and federal obligations and the protection of foreign minorities, all of which are matters of such deep concern to this Assembly.

7. The reservations expressed in the Second Committee by the Ethiopian delegation were based on the desire to see the principles of General Assembly resolution 390 (V)

fully implemented in the present resolution. In particular, the Ethiopian delegation was anxious to be assured that the federal and local Eritrean authorities' jurisdiction was given adequate satisfaction and ample guarantees on the basis of this resolution of 1950. Although the draft resolution as now presented does not, for the reasons I have already explained in the Committee satisfy the Ethiopian delegation, nevertheless sufficient clarification has now been obtained. The discussions with the representatives of the United Kingdom and of Italy, under the guidance of the distinguished and universally admired Chairman of the Second Committee, have done much to remove the obstacles, due largely to the conciliatory attitude of all the interested parties.

8. The explanatory footnotes incorporated in the resolution, the explanations given in the Second Committee by the representative of the United Kingdom and the assurances given by the leader of the United Kingdom delegation, in the opinion of my delegation, constitute clearly an adoption of the principles contained in resolution 390 (V). In addition, assurances have been obtained as regards the concessions, so that the existing undertakings and concessions are respected, while at the same time adequate freedom of action is assured for the future.

9. The United Kingdom has had a thankless task in Eritrea, which it has carried out in a manner that, I am sure all will agree, deserves the highest praise. At this moment, when the United Kingdom is seeking to discharge its functions in a conscientious manner and to transfer them to the new authorities to be established, the Ethiopian delegation, for one, is most anxious to bear testimony to the customary high-mindedness and statesmanlike attitude of His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom and of its representatives in the United Nations.

10. I desire also at this time to express the appreciation of my delegation of the distinguished Secretary-General of the United Nations, who has at all times demonstrated his penetrating knowledge and appreciation of the problems involved, and who has contributed so much to the solution not only of this but of many other problems relating to Eritrea. We are completely confident in his judgment, and we are confident also that he will, in a spirit of complete

impartiality and objectivity, contribute to the establishment of the tribunal provided for in this resolution.

11. The fact, therefore, that, notwithstanding the difficult, if not to say delicate, nature of the problems involved and the shortness of time at our disposal, the interested parties have been able to vote for an agreed text, is a high tribute to the efficiency of the United Nations itself, and I believe that it will contribute greatly to peace and security in the continent of Africa.

12. For the above reasons, therefore, my delegation will vote for this draft resolution which is before us.

13. The PRESIDENT (*translated from Spanish*): Does any representative wish to explain his vote?

14. As there is no one, we shall vote on the draft resolution [A/2077].

*The draft resolution was adopted by 39 votes to 5, with 5 abstentions.*

#### **Continuation of the activities of the Negotiating Committee for Extra-Budgetary Funds: report of the Committee (A/2086)**

15. The PRESIDENT (*translated from Spanish*): Before closing the meeting I must draw the attention of the Assembly to document A/2086, which contains a report submitted to the General Assembly by the Negotiating Committee for Extra-Budgetary Funds. The Assembly instructed this Committee to hold consultations "during the current session of the General Assembly." The Committee, for the reasons indicated in the report, cannot start its work before the end of this month; it therefore recommends the General Assembly to authorize it to continue its work "after the close of the present session of the General Assembly". The committee submits a draft resolution to this effect [A/2086].

16. If there is no objection, I shall consider this draft resolution adopted.

*The draft resolution was adopted.*

The meeting rose at 11.5 a.m.