

agreement in the case of the Statute of the Free Territory of Trieste, and submitted to the Conference four different texts on that question. On Article 76 (procedure for the settlement of disputes arising from the treaty), also, the Commission had to make a choice between a French - United Kingdom - United States proposal and a proposal sponsored by the U.S.S.R.

In the Italian Commission, as throughout the rest of the Conference, proceedings were characterized by lengthy debates on procedure, but, thanks to the able chairmanship of Mr Egeland (South Africa), this Commission, the largest and in some ways the most difficult of all, was more fortunate in this respect than most others. Nevertheless, the opening sessions were occupied by many hours' talk on procedural matters. The first substantial discussion took place on the admissibility or otherwise of the proposals put forward by the Italian Government for the modification of the Preamble in order to take note of Italy's ultimate share in Allied victory. Eventually it was agreed that "none of the suggestions contained in the Italian document were taken up as amendments in the form in which they were presented by any delegation, and therefore they were not supported as such."

The Preamble, after much discussion, was amended in certain respects, and, as finally approved, it set out more correctly the situation regarding the state of war between Italy and the Allied belligerents. It was also subject to corrections of style, and due recognition was given to democratic forces in Italy which had contributed to the overthrow of the Fascist regime.

Though not the first matter of substance to be discussed by the Commission in point of time, none proved more complicated and none was debated at greater length nor with more vigour than the twin problems of the Italian-Yugoslav frontier and the Free Territory of Trieste, upon which the Council of Foreign Ministers had failed to reach agreement in advance. The Italo-Yugoslav boundaries were covered in three identically worded articles of the treaty—namely, 3, 4, and 16, para. (1). But there was no agreed text regarding Trieste: Article 16 merely contained the decisions of the Council of Foreign Ministers on certain broad principles.

Trieste was, and is, undoubtedly the key to the Italian settlement. It is as well to state quite frankly that in the present situation, where mixed ethnic and national groups are at daggers drawn and backed by rival Great Powers, there appears to be little possibility of a wholly satisfactory solution, and a partial solution will probably have to be accepted as better than none at all.

Discussion in the Commission began with a statement from Signor Bonomi setting forth the views of the Italian Government on Articles 3 and 4 of the treaty relating to the boundaries between Italy and Yugoslavia, and Italy and the Free Territory of Trieste. Signor Bonomi (regarded by some as a not very tactful choice because of his association