

In the Assembly discussion the delegate for *India* announced that he would withdraw his resolution in favour of the Franco-Mexican text which now read :

“The General Assembly,

“Taking note of the application made by the Government of India regarding the treatment of people of Indian origin in the Union of South Africa as well as of considerations put forward by the Government of the Union, and having examined the matter,

“Invites the Governments of India, Pakistan and the Union of South Africa to enter into discussion at a round-table conference, taking into consideration the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and the Declaration of Human Rights.”

The delegate from *South Africa* urged that the Assembly should seek to arrange a conference between the parties concerned which would be “without strings.” The references in the proposed resolution to the Charter and more particularly to the Declaration of Human Rights constituted, he maintained, an impediment to free negotiation. After an attempt to have a separate vote on the phrase “and the Declaration of Human Rights” had been overruled by the President, however, the resolution was adopted by 47 votes (N.Z.) to 1 (*South Africa*) with 10 abstentions.

Question of the Disposal of the Former Italian Colonies

When the general debate on the disposal of the Italian colonies commenced on 6 April, the General Assembly was confronted with the opportunity of discharging a unique function and of operating with unique powers. For the first time the Great Powers had passed to the Assembly a problem on which that body's recommendations would be decisive and not subject to ultimate veto.

Under the terms of the peace treaty with Italy, signed at Paris in February, 1947, Italy renounced all rights to its former colonial possessions. Under Annex XI of the same treaty it was provided—

(a) That the final disposition of the territories should be determined within a year of the treaty's coming into force by the Governments of the Soviet Union, the United Kingdom, the United States, and France “in the light of the wishes and welfare of the inhabitants and the interests of peace and security taking into consideration the views of other interested Governments”; and

(b) That should the four Powers concerned be unable to reach agreement within the established time limit the question should be referred to the General Assembly of the United Nations for a recommendation which the Great Powers agreed to accept.