



### **Eritreans Welcome UN Commission**

Established by the last session of the General Assembly, the United Nations Commission for Eritrea is in Eritrea to ascertain the wishes of the inhabitants of that former Italian colony and to make recommendations on its future. Members of the United Nations Commission for Eritrea are greeted by the local population upon their arrival at the town of Massawa.

**01 February 1950**

Massawa, Eritrea



### **UN Commission to Eritrea**

An aspect of one of the native market places in Asmara, after the severe riots which occurred from 21 to 23 February 1950. UN Commission appealed officially to the population to stop all acts of violence.

**01 February 1950**

Asmara, Eritrea



### **UN Commission to Eritrea**

During the riots of February in Asmara, a crowd, in the Coptic quarter, listen to the speech of Albuna Marcos, Coptic Bishop of Eritrea, calling for cessation of the riots and return to normal life.

**23 February 1950**

Asmara, Eritrea



### **United Nations Flag Raised in Asmara**

High Commissioner for Eritrea, presents a United Nations flag to two members of the UN Field Service (Eleftherios Nohos and Charles D'Alewyn) before the flag raising ceremony.

**09 February 1951**

Asmara, Eritrea



### **UN Commissioner in Eritrea Holds Public Meetings in Asmara**

Dr. Eduardo Anze Matienzo, UN Commissioner in Eritrea, completed a series of public meetings at which he has been addressing the residents of Asmara. During a meeting he held on Somalia square, on 12 May, the Commissioner addressed several thousands inhabitants of the Mercato and Caravanserraglio quarters.

Eritrean children listening to the Commissioner.

**12 May 1951**

Asmara, Eritrea



UN Photo/WF



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### **UN Commissioner in Eritrea Holds Public Meetings in Asmara**

Dr. Eduardo Anze Matienzo, UN Commissioner in Eritrea, completed a series of public meetings at which he has been addressing the residents of Asmara.

This peaceful meeting, attended by the Moslems from the Acria quarter and the Copts from Gheza Banda, is held on the scene of the bloody riots of February 1950.

**12 May 1951**

Asmara, Eritrea



### **Eritrea Becomes Autonomous**

Less than two years after the UN General Assembly resolution granting self-rule to Eritrea, the former Italian colony has become an autonomous state federated with Ethiopia.

Eduardo Anze Matienzo (second from right), UN Commissioner in Eritrea, had to prepare the population for the change. Through consultations with all groups, he found that generally there was unanimity in favour of the principle of federation, but many differences of opinion on details. He stressed the need to think of the welfare of the country as a whole rather than in terms of tribal and local influences.

**01 January 1952**

Eritrea





### **Eritreans Vote For Representative Assembly**

The first election in the history of Eritrea was held on 26 March 1952 when a Representative Assembly was elected by secret ballot. The Assembly, when convened, will deal first with the draft Constitution presented by the United Nations Commissioner in Eritrea. By a decision of the UN General Assembly Eritrea, a former Italian colony, will be federated with Ethiopia.

Eager to cast their first vote, people of the Mercato Constituency patiently wait their turn outside the polling center.

**26 March 1952**

Asmara, Eritrea





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Long lines of patient citizens wait their turn to vote in the Gheza Berhanu and Gheza Banda Constituency. Interest in the election was high and in this constituency 90 percent of the registered populace voted.

26 March 1952

Asmara, Eritrea



**Portrait of Issaias Afwerki, Eritrean Leader**

Portrait of Eritrean leader Issaias Afwerki, Secretary-General of the Provisional Government of Eritrea. On 21 May 1993, the National Assembly declared him President of the Government of the State of Eritrea. [April 1993]

01 April 1993

Asmara, Eritrea

