

United Nations

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UNRESTRICTED

**SECURITY
COUNCIL**

**CONSEIL
DE SECURITE**

S/707
31 March 1948

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

NOTE FROM THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED STATES ADDRESSED
TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL TRANSMITTING THE TEXT OF THE DECLARATION
ON TRIESTE MADE JOINTLY BY THE GOVERNMENTS OF FRANCE,
THE UNITED KINGDOM AND THE UNITED STATES

March 20, 1948

The United States Representative at the Seat of the United Nations presents his compliments to the Secretary-General of the United Nations, and has the honor to transmit herewith the text of the declaration on Trieste made jointly by the Governments of the United States, the United Kingdom and France on March 20, 1948.

NOTE: The attached declaration is being circulated, in accordance with the request, dated 30 March 1948, of the representative of the United States.

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TEXT OF THE DECLARATION ON TRIESTE
BY THE GOVERNMENTS OF THE UNITED STATES, THE UNITED KINGDOM AND FRANCE
DATED MARCH 20, 1948

The Governments of the United States, United Kingdom and France have proposed to the Governments of the Soviet Union and Italy that those Governments join in agreement on an additional Protocol to the Treaty of Peace with Italy which would place the Free Territory of Trieste once more under Italian sovereignty.

The Governments of the United States, United Kingdom and France have come to this decision because discussions in the Security Council have already shown that agreement on the selection of a Governor is impossible, and because they have received abundant evidence to show that the Yugoslav Zone has been completely transferred in character and has been virtually incorporated into Yugoslavia by procedures which do not respect the desire expressed by the Powers to give an independent and democratic status to the Territory.

During the Council of Foreign Ministers discussion of the Italian Peace Treaty, it was the consistent position of the American, British and French Representatives that Trieste, which has an overwhelmingly Italian population, must remain an Italian city. Given the impossibility of securing the adoption of such a solution, the three Governments agreed that the city and a small hinterland should be established as a free territory under a statute which, it was hoped, would guarantee, with the cooperation of all parties concerned, the independence of the people of the area, including the Italian city of Trieste.

Pending the assumption of office by a Governor, the Free Territory has been administered by the Commander, British-United States Forces, in the northern zone of the Territory, and by the Commander, Yugoslav Forces, in the southern zone. In the United Kingdom-United States Zone, the Anglo-American military authorities have acted as caretakers for the Governor to be appointed and for the democratic organs of popular representation for which the Permanent Statute of the Territory makes provision. At the same time, Yugoslavia has taken in the Zone under her charge, measures which definitely compromise the possibility of applying the Statute.

In these circumstances, the three Governments have concluded that the present settlement cannot guarantee the preservation of the basic rights and interests of the people of the Free Territory.

The Governments of the United States, United Kingdom and France have therefore decided to recommend the return of the Free Territory of Trieste to Italian sovereignty as the best solution to meet the democratic aspirations of the people and make possible the re-establishment of peace and stability in the area.

Inasmuch as the Security Council has assumed the responsibility for the independence and territorial integrity of the Free Territory of Trieste, the Governments of the United States, the United Kingdom and France will submit to the Security Council for approval the arrangements to be jointly agreed upon.
