

PROGRESS OF WORK OF THE CONFERENCE

At its Fourth Meeting, on 13 December, the General Committee considered the progress report of the Conference submitted by the Executive Secretary, E/CONF.2/BUR/11.

The General Committee decided to recommend that every endeavour should be made by committees and sub-committees to expedite their work and to this effect makes the following proposals:

- (a) although speeches should not be limited as to length, Chairmen should remind representatives that they should be brief and restrict the debate in full committees to fundamental points; discussion on matters of detail is the work of sub-committees;
- (b) whenever delegations have submitted similar amendments, they should endeavour to evolve a common amendment in order to ease the work of the committees and sub-committees;
- (c) committees should endeavour to group similar amendments so as to limit the debate to the principles involved. In this manner, it should be possible to avoid a good deal of repetition;
- (d) as far as possible, an endeavour should be made in committees and sub-committees for speakers for and against the various amendments to be limited to a reasonable number, sufficient to enable the chairmen to establish the sense of the meetings on the issues under discussion;
- (e) whenever it is deemed advisable, sub-committee meetings may be called for times other than the normal hours of 10:30 a.m. and 4:00 p.m.;
- (f) it is stressed that the formula for scheduling meetings contained in paragraph 2 of document E/CONF.2/BUR/2, is flexible and cannot be strictly applied at the present stage of the Conference. Nevertheless, no more than two main committees should normally meet at the same time. Sub-committee meetings should be arranged with all possible regard for the avoidance of undesirable clashes but it must be recognized that some clashes are unavoidable if a sufficient number of meetings is to be held daily to enable the Conference to complete its work within a reasonable period of time.