

SIXTH COMMITTEE: ORGANIZATION

CORRIGENDUM TO SUMMARY RECORD OF THE TWENTY-SIXTH MEETING

The following corrections should be made in document E/CONF.2/C.6/SR.26:

Page 3. In the fourth line of the report of Mr. Garcia Serrato's speech, after the words 'the Charter' substitute the following:

"the International Trade Organization would be established and come into operation. Discussions in the Sub-Committee after the Sixth Committee's meeting of 5 January had strengthened his conviction that the Charter should enter into force after ratification by a majority of the signatories of the Final Act. During that meeting, the delegation of Uruguay had proposed that the Charter should be ratified by a two-thirds majority of the signatories, while the Mexican delegation proposed that it should be done by one half. In order to unite their efforts against ratification by a minority of twenty States, and to bring the procedure for ratification into line with the terms of Article 110 of the San Francisco Charter, both delegations had decided jointly to support ratification by a simple majority, or more than half the number of States signing the Charter, a compromise midway between their original positions. This formula was in keeping with United Nations procedure, reflected the democratic doctrine of decision by a majority, and prevented an international instrument which would involve the most far reaching obligations for all countries being brought into force by only one third of the members of the Conference. In comparison with these undeniable advantages, the argument in favour of ratification by twenty States advocated an arbitrary figure, easily replaced by another greater or smaller, and tried to defend it on the practical grounds that by bringing the Charter of the ITO into force more quickly, they would encourage the hesitating countries, if there were any after the close of the work of the Havana Conference, to ratify the Charter in their turn. He did not believe that there would be any such practical advantage, because only a fair, equitable and useful Charter could encourage nations, whichever they might be, to ratify it. That question could be decided only when the Charter had been completed in every respect."

/The complete

The complete text of the report of the speech made by the delegate of Uruguay should read as follows:

"Mr. GARCIA SERRATO (Uruguay) supported the remarks of the representative of Argentina, and pointed out that he strongly disagreed with the suggestion made by certain representatives in the Sub-Committee that if twenty nations ratified the Charter, the International Trade Organization would be established and come into operation. Discussions in the Sub-Committee after the Sixth Committee's meeting of 5 January had strengthened his conviction that the Charter should enter into force after ratification by a majority of the signatories of the Final Act. During that meeting, the delegation of Uruguay had proposed that the Charter should be ratified by a two-thirds majority of the signatories, while the Mexican delegation proposed that it should be done by one half. In order to unite their efforts against ratification by a minority of twenty States, and to bring the procedure for ratification into line with the terms of Article 110 of the San Francisco Charter, both delegations had decided jointly to support ratification by a simple majority, or more than half the number of States signing the Charter, a compromise midway between their original positions. This formula was in keeping with the United Nations procedure reflected the democratic doctrine of decision by a majority, and prevented an international instrument which would involve the most far reaching obligations for all countries being brought into force by only one third of the members of the Conference. In comparison with these undeniable advantages, the argument in favour of ratification by twenty States advocated an arbitrary figure, easily replaced by another greater or smaller, and tried to defend it on the practical grounds that by bringing the Charter of the ITO into force more quickly, they would encourage the hesitating countries if there were any after the close of the work of the Havana Conference, to ratify the Charter in their turn. He did not believe that there would be any such practical advantages, because only a fair, equitable and useful Charter could encourage nations, whichever they might be, to ratify it. That question could be decided only when the Charter had been completed in every respect."

Page 4: In the second line of the report of Mr. Garcia Serrato's speech, after the word "apprehensions", insert:

"if in fact there were any after the signing of the Final Act of the Conference;"

The full text should read as follows:

"Mr. GARCIA SERRATO (Uruguay) did not see how the mere acceptance of twenty countries would cause hesitant states to lose their apprehensions

/if in fact

if in fact there were any after the signing of the Final Act of the Conference; it was a matter in which national parliaments and public opinion were involved. If, on the other hand the peoples of the world could be sure of gaining advantages from the establishment of the Organization, there would be a torrent of acceptances."