

Executive Committee

Second Session

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE SIXTEENTH MEETING

Held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva,
on 15 September 1948, at 3.00 p.m.

CHAIRMAN: Hon. L. D. WILGRESS (Canada)

Report of Sub-Committee 2 on Economic Development and
Reconstruction (ICITO/EC.2/20) (continued)

The CHAIRMAN resuming the discussion, said this was to be regarded as an interim report. The terms of reference of the Sub-Committee were so broad that it could not be expected to finish its work at this Session. It was a preliminary survey to investigate what direction should be pursued, what further material the Secretariat would be required to procure and generally to investigate the various complexities of the problem.

At the next Session of the Executive Committee he expected the Sub-Committee would meet with the same membership and proceed to a full consideration of the whole question in the light of all the preparatory work which would serve as a basis for discussion.

The only part of the Report which appeared to require an agreement was Section V on Further Activities of the Interim Commission.

Mr. DE VRIES (Benelux) said all Governments were interested in the problem of economic development and

that, though the postponement of a full consideration was unavoidable, some disappointment would be felt in view of this very great interest. He added that steps should be taken in order that the Executive Committee be enabled to come to positive conclusions at the next Session.

The CHAIRMAN said it was desirable to give guidance to the Executive Secretary and also recommended that Members give thoughtful consideration to the question in the period intervening between the Sessions of the Executive Committee.

Paragraphs 1 to 10 of the Report were approved.

Paragraph 11 was approved with the following amendment after a discussion in which Miss FISHER (United Kingdom), Mr. ADARKAR (India) and Mr. POLITIS (Greece) took part:

In sub-paragraph (b) delete: "the international movement of facilities" and insert: "movement between countries of facilities to encourage economic development".

Paragraph 12 was approved.

Paragraph 13 was approved with the following amendments:

Insert in the first sentence after the words "carry out" the words "in the first place" and delete the word "principal".

In the fourth sentence substitute "who" for "which" and in the sixth sentence insert the word "requesting" after the words "direct the".

Paragraphs 14 and 15 were approved.

Paragraph 16 was approved with the following amendment:

In the seventh line and in the first line of subparagraph (b) delete the word "international" and insert the words "between countries" after the word "movement".

Paragraphs 17 to 19 were approved.

Miss FISHER (United Kingdom) thought that it would be more appropriate to lay the emphasis on the positive functions of the Commission.

Mr. LIEU (China) said he favoured the proposal to appoint, in accordance with the provisions of Article 82 of the Charter, an Economic Development Commission which should be in session all the year round and whose members should include among other experts, technical men who would be familiar with the planning of development and reconstruction projects. Otherwise it would be better to leave the matter to the Director-General and his staff because the inevitable delays between meetings of a non-permanent Commission would be prejudicial rather than useful.

A discussion followed on the proposal of Miss Fisher in which Mr. HEWITT (Australia), Mr. POLITIS (Greece), Mr. CAMPOS (Brazil), Mr. AMANRICH (France), and Mr. ADARKAR (India) participated and the meeting approved paragraph 20 with the following amendment:

In the last line delete the words "its responsibilities" and substitute the words "its positive functions".

Mr. LIEU (China) requested that his proposal be recorded.

Paragraphs 21 to 23 were approved.

Paragraph 24 was approved with the following amendments:

In the fifth line delete the word "preparation" and substitute the word "completion"

In the last sentence after the word "activities" insert the words "in the field of economic development and reconstruction".

In connection with paragraph 25 Miss FISHER (United Kingdom) proposed that it be made clear to Governments the kind of information it would be useful for them to supply and she proposed an amendment which, after a discussion in which Mr. HEWITT (Australia), Mr. ADARKAR (India) and Mr. DE VRIES (Benelux) took part, was adopted. Paragraph 25 was approved to read as follows:

"The Sub-Committee suggested that in the interval between the sessions Governments Members of the Interim Commission should submit whatever information they could supply relating to the availability to other countries of facilities for technical surveys or studies, from private or other sources, as described in paragraph 1 (ii) of the Havana resolution in order that this material might be considered at the next session of the Executive Committee in relation to paragraph 14 of this Report."

The proposal of Mr. de Vries that the Executive Secretary should circulate to Governments details concerning the information it would be useful to supply was approved.

Paragraph 26 was approved with the amendment in the second sentence proposed by Mr. ADARKAR (India) and Mr. CORSE (USA), which should read as follows:

"The Secretariat should also consult with other agencies concerned as to the practical working arrangements necessary for carrying out these activities in such collaboration with them as may be appropriate."

Future Work of the Interim Commission (ICITO/EC.2/5)
(continued)

IV (h) Preparation of draft Regulations regarding the position of the Director-General of the ITO

The Executive Committee agreed to instruct the Executive Secretary to draw up a set of Draft Regulations regarding the position of the Director-General for consideration at the next Session.

IV (i) Recommendations as to what, if any, commissions should be established by the First Conference

Mr. DE VRIES (Benelux) said it would be difficult to know at the moment how many would be useful, but that the question should be an important item on the agenda of the next Session.

Mr. PEDROSA (Philippines) suggested it might be useful to examine the possibility of setting up a Commission for bringing uniformity of procedures, documentation etc., into international trade.

The Executive Committee decided to instruct the Executive Secretary to examine the functions of the Organization in relation to these subsidiary bodies. His suggestions could be useful as a basis for the work of the next Session. The Executive Secretary should likewise report on the questions arising out of the remaining two points.

IV (j) Recommendations on conditions of service for members of the Commission

IV (k) recommendations as to the functions of such Commissions.

Mr. TONKIN (Australia) thought this was the best arrangement to make and he suggested that the Executive Secretary prepare the information as early as possible in order that Governments might have time to consider them thoroughly.

Mr. POLITIS (Greece) suggested the publication of the Reports of the Sub-Committees and of a history of the Articles of the Charter from the original formulations to the final drafts reached at Havana. This would enable all who had not taken part in the work to acquire a fuller understanding of the Charter and, more generally, would be of the greatest help for the interpretation of the Articles. His suggestion was that the Executive Secretary report on the possibility and cost of this work at the next Session.

The Executive Committee agreed.

Item 13 of the Agenda: Other BusinessDate of the next Session of the Executive Committee

The CHAIRMAN said he thought the Executive Committee should meet as soon as possible after the deposit of the final instrument of acceptance of the Charter in order that preparations might conveniently be made for the First Conference of the ITO which, in accordance with paragraph 2 (a) of the Annex to the Havana Resolution, should be held "not less than four months, and as far as practicable, not more than six months after the receipt of the last acceptance needed to bring the Charter into force".

If, however, the Charter had not come into force by 30 September 1949, it would be convenient for the Executive Committee to meet at the same time as those governments which had ratified the Charter, and would be convoked at that time by the Secretary-General of the United Nations, in accordance with paragraph 2 (c) of Article 103 of the Charter.

The Executive Committee accepted the Chairman's proposal that the next Session be held either at the approximate date of the deposit of the twentieth instrument of acceptance in accordance with the provisions of Article 103 of the Charter or on 30 September, 1949, whichever were earlier.

The meeting rose at 6.00 p.m.