

THE STATEMENT OF THE DELEGATION OF PAKISTAN

The following statement received from the delegation of Pakistan is submitted for the information of delegates.

I wish to make a reference to certain facts which are now history. The members are aware that when the Preparatory Committee started deliberations in April 1947, British India was one Political Unit. At that time the question of partition of British India was still under discussion. India was at that time one economic unit and it was only on the 3rd. of June that His Britannic Majesty's Government announced the plan of partition which was implemented on the 15th. of August this year when the two Dominions of India and Pakistan came into existence as sovereign independent States. The report of the Preparatory Committee was published some time in August and throughout the text of the Draft Charter wherever reference had to be made to India, the framers of the report referred to India as "India before partition", or "India as on 10.4.47". I should like here to invite the attention of the Members of this Committee to pages 59 and 65 of the Draft Charter before us. At page 59, Annex A shows the countries in the Empire block which extend preferential treatment to each other on a mutually advantageous basis as far as the tariffs are concerned. Though Pakistan is a Dominion within the British Empire, she is not mentioned as such in Annex A. As the partition was not an accomplished fact, the framers of the Draft Charter could only refer to "India" as "India on 10.4.47". Pakistan though not mentioned as such in Annex A has, Mr. Chairman, negotiated and signed the Act of Authentication of the General Agreement of Tariffs and Trade in October of 1947 as a result of multilateral negotiations concluded at Geneva.

2. Again when we turn to page 65 of the Charter where the voting formula is discussed, India has been referred to as "India before partition" and it is abundantly clear that the Draft Charter did not recognize India as a Dominion as she stands now but as British India before partition.

3. In another context I would like to refer to an Amendment to Article 42 tabled by the Indian Delegation which reads as follows:

"5. Taking into consideration the exceptional circumstances
/arising.

arising out of the establishment of India and Pakistan as independent states and recognizing the fact that they have long constituted an economic unit, the members agree that the provisions of the Charter shall not prevent the two countries from entering into special arrangements with respect to the trade between them."

This elucidates the position further. Mr. Chairman, you will therefore observe that the amendment to Alternative A of Article 75 which I have ventured to move is only verbal and does not alter the substance of the text of Article 75. In all probability the drafters of the final text of the Charter here in Havana could have made this alteration themselves. The object of my suggesting this amendment is only to reassure myself that this may not be overlooked. I may add that I do not wish to enter into any discussion at this stage as to how India and Pakistan should settle the mode of representation between themselves on the Executive Board. Just as India has suggested that in view of the economic unity that existed before partition and in order to give the right to the two countries to adjust their economic problems, similarly I propose that this question may be left to us for mutual discussion and settlement. Mr. Chairman, this settlement I am confident will present no special difficulty. If groups of countries as mentioned in the article can settle the question of representation on each occasion, then surely India and Pakistan who have long established economic ties and are still governed by an agreement which lays down a single economic policy for both, it should be possible to reach an amicable settlement.

I therefore request the house to consider my amendment in the light of the economic relationship that exists today and which I am sanguine will acquire greater cordiality as we both march on the path of prosperity. I may further assure the house that we will not trouble the organization to intervene on a matter which left to ourselves should be easy to resolve.

Mr. Chairman, I wish to convey through you to the organization that we fully realize our responsibility that a country should have towards its neighbour. It is with all the good will towards India that I have ventured to table this amendment and I hope it will be received in the same spirit. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
