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ON
TRADE AND EMPLOYMENT

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ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

SUMMARY RECORD OF TWELFTH PLENARY MEETING

Held at the Capitol, Havana, Cuba,
on Wednesday, 31 December 1947 at 3.45 p.m.

President: Mr. Sergio I. CLARK (Cuba)

1. APPROVAL OF THE REPORT OF THE CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE
(E/CONF.2/C.7/1/Rev.1).

The report was approved without comment.

2. RECOMMENDATION OF THE GENERAL COMMITTEE REGARDING A CENTRAL
DRAFTING COMMITTEE (E/CONF.2/21 & Corr.1)

The Recommendation was accepted without comment.

3. GENERAL

MEETINGS OF COMMITTEES AND SUB-COMMITTEES

Mr. AUGENTHALER (Czechoslovakia) protested against simultaneous meetings of Committees, particularly Committees II, III and VI, and was supported by the representatives of Poland, Syria and Chile, the latter requesting that sub-committee meetings should not be scheduled on the same day as their main committees. Mr. MUELLER (Chile) also requested that the Order of the Day include information as to sub-committee reports to be presented.

The CHAIRMAN stated that the matter would be submitted to the General Committee; the Secretariat would take note of the request concerning the Order of the Day.

LANGUAGES

Mr. JIMENEZ (El Salvador), supported by the representatives of Argentina, Venezuela, Mexico and the Dominican Republic, requested interpretation into Spanish in sub-committees to facilitate the work of the Conference. It was not proposed that Spanish be a full working language, but interpretation into Spanish in sub-committee would be of great assistance to the representatives of Latin America who did not know English or French well enough to follow discussions. The delegation of Argentina had for that reason reserved its right to return in full Committee to all matters discussed by the Joint Sub-Committee of Committees II and III.

/Mr. COLBAN (Norway)

Mr. COIBAN (Norway) stated that if there were any change in the present procedure, consideration should be given to the twenty-five delegations who spoke languages other than the working languages.

Mr. WUNSZ KING (China) reiterated the position of his delegation; if the present Rule of Procedure were modified, the Chinese delegation reserved its right to insist on Chinese being included as a working language.

Mr. GAZDAR (Pakistan) was opposed to any extension of working languages which would retard the work of the Conference.

The CHAIRMAN requested the representative of El Salvador to submit a written amendment to the relevant Rule of Procedure, which would be studied by a sub-committee.

OBSERVANCE OF NEW YEAR'S DAY

Mr. MUELLER (Chile) supported by the representatives of Cuba and El Salvador, proposed that 1 January be declared a non-working day.

The representatives of Pakistan, the United Kingdom, the United States of America and the Netherlands spoke against the proposal.

It was decided by vote of thirty to eleven that 1 January should be a holiday.

The meeting rose at 4.25 p.m.
