

**United Nations
CONFERENCE
ON
TRADE AND EMPLOYMENT**

**Nations Unies
CONFERENCE
DU
COMMERCE ET DE L'EMPLOI**

**UNRESTRICTED
E/CONF.2/BUR/13
15 December 1947
ORIGINAL: ENGLISH**

GENERAL COMMITTEE

**PARTICIPATION OF NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS IN
THE WORK OF THE CONFERENCE**

Note by the Executive Secretary

There are circulated herewith copies of communications received from the representatives of the International Chamber of Commerce, International Co-operative Alliance, and the International Organization of Industrial Employers. It is suggested that the General Committee consider these communications at its next meeting.

It will be seen that the principal respect in which the organizations desire a modification in the ruling of the General Committee is the right to intervene in the debates of the principal committees subject to the consent of the chairman and the committee concerned.

Capitolio Building (Room 7)
Havana.

13th December, 1947.

Dear Mr. President,

The International Co-operative Alliance, having taken knowledge of the interpretation made by the General Committee of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Employment on the status of Consultative Non-Governmental Organizations, Category A, desires to give renewed expression to its wish to offer its consultation to the fullest extent possible to this Conference which it considers of the greatest importance for the establishment of a stable and expanding world economy and an enduring peace.

To facilitate such a consultation, according to the opinion of the International Co-operative Alliance, the best means would be to grant the representatives of the Non-Governmental Organizations Category A. at this Conference the opportunity of orally presenting the specific points of the comments of the Organizations on the Charter before the Committees and of participating in ensuing debates.

The International Co-operative Alliance, having been informed of the contents of the letter on this subject sent to you, Mr. President, by the representative of the International Chamber of Commerce, wishes to inform

/you

you that the proposals laid down therein have the full support of the International Co-operative Alliance.

Believe me, dear Mr. President,
Yours very truly,

(Sgd.) THORSTEN ODHE
Permanent Representative of the
I.C.A. to the United Nations.

Ing. Sergio I. Clark,
President,
United Nations Conference on Trade and Employment,
Havana.

Capitolio Building (Room 6).

Havana.

12th December, 1947.

Dear Mr. President,

I am instructed by the President of the International Chamber of Commerce to transmit to you the following message.

The International Chamber of Commerce took cognizance, with the greatest regret, of the interpretation placed by the General Committee of the Conference on the status of Consultative Non-Governmental Organizations, Category A.

Nevertheless, considering the importance of the decisions that are to be taken at the Havana Conference for the furtherance of international trade, and in view of the well-known aim of the International Chamber of Commerce to promote a peaceful world economy, the I.C.C. will maintain its delegation at Havana and continue to place its representatives at the disposal of the Conference for the purpose of productive and fruitful consultation.

To facilitate positive co-operation during this Conference between Government Delegations and Category A. Consultative Bodies, the International Chamber of Commerce invites the General Committee of the Conference to modify its ruling concerning the participation of Non-Government Organizations in the debates of Conference Committees. The International Chamber of Commerce attaches particular importance to this point.

A workable procedure for allowing a Category A. Consultative Agency to speak, if it wishes to do so, might be, for example, for its representative to write a note to the Chairman of the Committee saying that his Organization

/wishes

wishes to intervene in the debate on the particular point indicated. The Chairman would then put the request to the Committee who would decide whether they would grant the Organization the liberty of speaking. These views would be of course duly recorded in the proceedings.

Believe me, dear Mr. President

Yours very truly,

(Sgd.) MICHAEL A. HEILPERIN

Michael A. Heilperin

Economic Adviser, I.C.C. Delegation.

Ing. Sergio I. Clark,

President,

United Nations Conference on Trade and Employment.

Havana.

CAPITOLIO BUILDING (ROOM 11).

HAVANA.

CUBA.

11th December, 1947.

Dear Mr. Wyndham White,

I have been in attendance of this Conference since its first day as the representative of the International Organization of Industrial Employers. Very recently I learned of the action of the General Committee on December 6, 1947, with respect to participation of Non-Governmental Organizations, of which the International Organization of Industrial Employers is one in CATEGORY A.

I desire to tell the General Committee that its action of December 6th will preclude effective contribution to this Conference by the I.O.I.E. Also, in my judgment, the action of the General Committee runs counter to the laudable effort of the Economic and Social Council to improve consultation and co-operation in the relationship between the Council and Non-Governmental Organizations.

The purpose of consultation, as set forth in the report of the Committee of Twelve, which report was adopted by the Council on June 21, 1946, is two-fold:

1. To secure expert information and advice;
2. To enable organizations which represent important elements of public opinion to express their views.

/The point

The point of this letter is that these objectives, insofar as this Conference is concerned, cannot be promoted because the rules deny rather than afford opportunity to express views.

To illustrate: Hundreds of amendments submitted by Government delegations are to be considered by Committees. The import of an amendment frequently is not apparent until it is discussed in Committee. It may be impossible to formulate a view prior to that discussion. However, Non-Governmental representatives, under the rule, could not then express a view because the rule restricts expressions to explanations of their views that have been expressed in writing.

Numerous other illustrations could be given to demonstrate that consultation and the expression of views, the stated objectives of the Council are not encouraged by the rules adopted on December 6th.

The Council was careful to separate Non-Governmental Organizations into Categories. The rules of December 6th make no distinction.

Organizations representing business, employers, have been and are vitally concerned that this Conference should achieve success. Toward that goal they have given their best efforts, where possible. They were justified in having felt that, because this Conference concerns trade, their assistance and advice could be helpful toward that end. No such organization, facing the procedures implicit in the rules adopted, could be satisfied that the consultations desired alike by the Council and by these Organizations will be furthered.

Because the Council must necessarily have a continuing interest in knowing how its objectives are achieved in practice and experience, arrangements are being made for a copy of this letter to be sent to the Council so that the rules concerning Organizations in Category A. may be examined with the objectives of the Council in mind.

Yours sincerely,

(Sgd.) JAMES TANHAM

(James Tanham)

Representative of the
International Organization of Industrial
Employers.

Mr. E. Wyndham White,
Executive Secretary,
United Nations Conference on Trade and Employment.
Havana, CUBA