

GENERAL COMMITTEE

THE TEXT OF THE CHARTER

Note by the Executive Secretary

The General Committee will recall that during the discussion of the proposal to establish a Central Drafting Committee, reference was made to the instrument to be produced at the end of the Conference.

It would be helpful if further consideration could be given to this question in order that appropriate arrangements can be made by the Secretariat.

The Draft Charter contains two provisions bearing on this question: Paragraph 1, Article 92, reads as follows:

"For the purposes of the interpretation of this Charter under the provisions of this chapter, the English and French texts shall be authoritative". Article 100 provides that "The original texts of this Charter shall be deposited with the Secretary-General of the United Nations who will furnish certified copies of the texts to all interested Governments".

The inference to be drawn from Article 92, paragraph 1, is that the authentic texts will be the texts drawn up in the working languages of the Conference, that is to say, in English and in French. It would, therefore, be a possible procedure for Delegates to sign the authentic, i.e. English and French, texts established at the Conference. The Secretariat of the United Nations would then take the necessary measures to produce the texts in the other three official languages, i.e. in Spanish, Chinese and Russian, to be also deposited with the Secretary-General of the United Nations in accordance with Article 100.

An alternative procedure would be that there should be no signature of texts at the close of the present Conference but that a Final Act would be signed authenticating the texts established in the working languages, that is to say, English and French. This Final Act, which would be a brief document, could be signed either in the two working languages or in the five official languages. There is attached a draft of a Final Act.

Attachment.

/FINAL ACT

FINAL ACT OF THE UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON TRADE AND EMPLOYMENT

The Economic and Social Council of the United Nations by a Resolution dated 18 February 1946, resolved to call an international Conference on Trade and Employment for the purpose of promoting the expansion of the production, exchange and consumption of goods.

The Conference convened in Havana on 21 November 1947 and concluded on 1948.

The following instruments, copies of which are annexed hereto in the English and French languages and are hereby authenticated, were drawn up and agreed:

- (a) The Charter of the International Trade Organization;
- (b) [The Arrangement for the Establishment of an Interim Commission of the International Trade Organization;]
- (c) [Resolutions of the Conference.]

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned Representatives signed this Final Act.

DONE at Havana, thisday of....., 194.....
in a single copy in the English and French [Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish] languages, each text being equally authentic.

This Final Act shall be deposited with the Secretary-General of the United Nations who will send certified copies to each of the signatories of this Final Act.
