

United Nations
CONFERENCE
ON
TRADE AND EMPLOYMENT

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COMMERCE ET DE L'EMPLOI

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FIRST COMMITTEE: EMPLOYMENT AND ECONOMIC ACTIVITY

SUB-COMMITTEE C: PROPOSED RESOLUTION ON EMPLOYMENT

DRAFT RESOLUTION ON INTERNATIONAL ACTION RELATING TO EMPLOYMENT

NOTE BY AUSTRALIAN DELEGATION

At the first Session of the Preparatory Committee in November 1946, a Draft Resolution was agreed which suggested that the Economic and Social Council should arrange for studies of various possible types of international action designed to assist in the achievement and maintenance of full and productive employment and of high and stable levels of effective demand.

Account was taken by the Economic and Social Council of the terms of this resolution, and the main parts of it were subsequently included in instructions issued by the Economic and Employment Commission to its Sub-Commission on Employment and Economic Stability, which has recently concluded its first meeting.

The resolution adopted by the First Session of the Preparatory Committee and the studies suggested therein have thus been taken into account by the appropriate bodies of the United Nations, but we understand that up to the present time progress has been relatively slow. If employment and effective demand are to be maintained at high levels, appropriate action needs to be taken in good time by individual countries within their own economies, supplemented where practicable by concerted action in the international sphere. For this reason, the Australian delegation believes it to be essential that the problems connected with the maintenance of employment and demand should be studied now, and suggests that the Conference might profitably adopt a resolution suggesting further action which might be taken now by the Economic and Social Council, by the appropriate specialized agencies, and by individual countries to promote and encourage such study.

The Australian delegation suggests as a basis for discussion a resolution on the following lines (we are aware that other delegations will be submitting further points for consideration by the Sub-Committee):

"THE UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON TRADE AND EMPLOYMENT,

RECOGNIZING THAT:

1. The present high levels of employment and effective demand in many countries depend partly upon factors which are essentially impermanent,

/2. Successful

2. Successful action to sustain effective demand and employment when a decline threatens necessitates prior study and preparation of plans for appropriate action, and

3. Action to sustain effective demand and employment can, in some cases, be closely integrated with measures which are being or could be taken in present conditions to reduce inflationary pressure;

HEREBY SUGGESTS THAT

The Economic and Social Council do everything within its powers to expedite the studies at present being undertaken in relation to the maintenance of employment, and to promote immediate action both by individual governments and by specialized agencies to plan measures to sustain high levels of employment and effective demand, and in particular to:

(1) Request from each of the United Nations, in pursuance of the obligations undertaken in Articles 55 and 56 of the Charter of the United Nations, a report setting out any action which it is now taking to maintain reasonable stability in employment and effective demand within its jurisdiction and the nature of any prepared plans for action to maintain employment and effective demand if a decline threatens in future.

(2) Arrange for consultations between interested governments directed towards agreements (in conformity with the principles contained in Chapter VI of the ITO Charter) designed to give greater stability to the prices of basic commodities entering into international trade which experience demonstrates to be subject to serious fluctuations, thus constituting a threat to stability of employment and effective demand.

(3) Consult with the appropriate specialized agencies to the end that they should prepare plans now for action which they might take, consistently with the terms and purposes of their basic instruments, in the event of a threat of a decline in employment and economic activity.

(4) Consider whether the existing machinery for supplying or promoting the supply of international funds for investment is adequate to meet the need for funds for useful economic development or whether the provision of further machinery for this purpose is desirable and practicable.
